FBIS DAILY REPORT

Soviet Union

CONTENTS

ARMS CONTROL & DISARMAMENT

Ponomarev on U.S. Escalation of Strategic Arms Race AA 1
Status of Euromissiles Debate Discussed AA 2
[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 4 Jul]
SDI: 'Greatest Deception of the Peoples' AA 4
[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 2 Jul]

COMMUNIST RELATIONS

Joint Troop Exercises To Be Held in CSSR BB 1
Polish Officials Meet With Pact Parliamentarians BB 1

WORLDWIDE ISSUES

Weekly 'International Observers Roundtable' CC 1
[Zorin, Kobysh, Tsvetov]

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

UNITED STATES & CANADA

TASS Statement on Bilateral U.S. Relations A 1
U.S., Soviet Experts Discuss Mideast in Geneva A 2
Howard Baker's Comments on Gulf Welcomed A 2

CHINA

Razumovskiy-Led Delegation Visits Shanghai B 1
[PRAVDA 8 Jul]

NORTHEAST ASIA

Further on Dobrynin Speech at Asia-Pacific Meeting C 1

SOUTHEAST ASIA & PACIFIC

Yazov Meets With Vietnamese Delegation D 1
[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 24 Jun]
PRK Spokesman Denounces U.S., Thai 'Provocations' D 1

NEAR EAST & SOUTH ASIA

Pyadyshev Confirms Plane Landed in Iran E 1
Kuwaiti Paper Carries Official's Comments on Gulf E 1
[AL-ANBA' 7 Jul]

IZVESTIYA Cites Pyadyshev on Gulf Situation [9 Jul] E 2
Shabayev Cites 'Adventuristic' U.S. Gulf Policy E 3
Two Members of Delegation to Israel Named E 4
[Tel Aviv HADASHOT 19 Jun]

EAST EUROPE

Petrovskiy Discusses International Security in Sofia G 1

WEST EUROPE

Gorbachev Letter Delivered to Papandreou H 1
[Athens TO PONDIKI 3 Jul]
Ryzhkov, Vranitzky Discuss Relations, Cooperation H 4
Meeting With Parliamentarians H 5
Further Reportage on FRG President's Visit H 5
'Positive Assessment' of Talks [DPA] H 5
Cooperation Discussed [DPA] H 5
Meets With Sakharov H 6
France, FRG Begin Military Cooperation Seminar H 7
France's Giraud on 'Crusade Against Disarmament' H 7
[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 8 Jul]

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

U.S. 'Interventionist Policy' in Panama Decried I 1
[Listov in PRAVDA 4 Jul]
Article on Repercussions of U.S. 'War' on Nicaragua I 2
[IZVESTIYA 24 Jun]
Nicaraguan Foreign Minister D'Escoto Interviewed I 4
[SOVETSKAYA KULTURA 23 Jun]
Reportage on Mexican Congressional Delegation's Visit I 5
Arrives 2 July I 5
Official Views Goals [IZVESTIYA 3 Jul] I 5

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

POLITICAL & SOCIAL

Further Reportage on Recent Supreme Soviet Session R 1
'Spirit' of Session Described R 1
Economic Management Resolution R 1
[IZVESTIYA 1 Jul]
Petrov Addresses Session R 5
[IZVESTIYA 2 Jul]
Kovalev Speech [IZVESTIYA 2 Jul] R 6
Yezhevskiy on Agriculture R 8
[IZVESTIYA 2 Jul]
Kachura on Ukraine Production R 9
[IZVESTIYA 2 Jul]
Menteshashvili Report R 11
[IZVESTIYA 1 Jul]

Further Reportage on RSFSR Supreme Soviet Session R 13
Kazakov Presents Retail Report R 13
Podolskiy on Goods, Services R 15
7 July Proceedings Detailed R 15
SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA on Meeting [8 Jul] R 16
Shevardnadze Addresses Foreign Ministry Staff R 17

AGRICULTURAL

Mid-June Weather, Crop Development Reported T 1
[SELSKAYA ZHIZN 24 Jun]
Media Covers 25-27 June Agricultural Work T 2

SCIENTIFIC

Cosmos-1865 Scientific Satellite Launched 8 July U 1
'Mir' Cosmonauts End Fifth Month in Orbit U 1

MILITARY

Shabanov Addresses Volga Komsomol Aktiv Meeting V 1
[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 25 Jun]
Editorial Urges 'Personal Responsibility' V 1
[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 25 Jun]

PONOMAREV ON U.S. ESCALATION OF STRATEGIC ARMS RACE

LD072109 Moscow TASS in English 2032 GMT 7 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow July 7 TASS -- TASS news analyst Leonid Ponomarev writes:

Tests of a transporter launcher for "Midgetman" intercontinental ballistic missiles were conducted at a test site of the U.S. Malmstrom Air Base, Montana, in conditions of low temperatures. They were designed to try out the launcher's movement on deep snow and its capacity to withstand a nearby explosion.

The "Midgetman" is a new highly-mobile ICBM, which has been in active development since 1983. Several days earlier, the U.S. Air Force carried out a new test flight of the new B-1B strategic bomber with a view to testing the range of its flight, speed regime and payload capacity.

Tests of the MX missile which can carry ten warheads were conducted at the Vandenberg Base, according to U.S. press reports. Pentagon strategists are eager to make this missile "invulnerable" due to its constant movement on a launching railroad platform.

The development of these and other new types of strategic weapons is under way under a comprehensive programme of America's rearmament throughout 1990, which was adopted by the current administration in 1981. The objective of this programme is to upset the approximate balance of forces between the United States and the USSR that formed in the 70's and acquire military preponderance over the Soviet Union.

To provide a political cover-up for its moves to build up sharply its military potential, the Washington administration devised a concept of a certain "window of vulnerability" allegedly existing in the U.S. defence. In actual fact, however, the administration embarked on the course of ensuring for itself an opportunity for going ahead with the policy of imperial ambitions to rule the world.

If one is to take an unbiased look at things, the new weapon systems are not needed altogether. Since the strategic systems already in possession of the United States are enough to lift in one launch some 15,000 nuclear warheads. [sentence as received] U.S. ground-based ICBM's alone can lift in one launch 2,180 nuclear warheads.

Nonetheless, the Pentagon programmes provide for a further buildup of both "Midgetman" ICBM's and B-1B strategic bombers. This actually constitutes a violation of the SALT-2 treaty of 1979, which is an important barrier in the way of spiralling the arms race.

For instance, the Pentagon intends to put into service 500 to 1,000 "Midgetman" ICBM's in 1992-1996 and one hundred B-1B bombers in 1985-1988. These bombers have been in serial production since mid-1984. Each of them can carry up to 30 long-range cruise missiles. The "Midgetman" missiles, strategic bombers as well as the "MX" missiles are produced in addition to the already existing U.S. strategic triad consisting of land-based ICBM's, strategic aviation and submarine-launched ICBM's.

In Washington they were eloquent on their commitment to the cause of peace whereas in actual fact they are busy scaling up the race in strategic armaments. The Soviet Union holds different stances: Our country suggests removing nuclear weapons from earth altogether by the end of the current century. All Soviet initiative in the field of disarmament are pervaded with precisely this desire.

STATUS OF EUROMISSILES DEBATE DISCUSSED

PM071319 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 4 Jul 87 First Edition p 5

[Candidate of Military Sciences Colonel V. Nazarenko article: "Chain of Endless Problems; Who is Creating Obstacles on the Road to Agreement"]

[Text] The foundations of an agreement to eliminate Soviet and U.S. medium-range missiles in Europe were laid, as is well known, in Reykjavik during the summit between M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and U.S. President R. Reagan. The Soviet Union made a major concession: It agreed to completely destroy the sides' medium-range weapons on the European Continent and leave the French and British nuclear potential outside the framework of the Soviet-U.S. talks. It must be said bluntly that it was only thanks to the Soviet Union's bold actions that the Reykjavik formula -- zero medium-range missiles in Europe and 100 warheads each on the same missiles in the Asian part of the USSR and correspondingly on U.S. territory -- became possible.

Subsequently, with a view to reaching agreement on medium-range missiles, the Soviet side made new constructive proposals aimed at removing the obstacles that had arisen in working out coordinated decisions and were holding back the possibility of a real breakthrough in the nuclear disarmament sphere. The Soviet Union considered it possible to spotlight the problem of eliminating medium-range missiles from the overall package of proposals on nuclear and space arms. Meeting the West halfway, it consented to the simultaneous elimination in Europe of operational and tactical missiles -- that is, nuclear missiles with a range of between 500 and 1,000 km. A readiness to resolve the medium-range missiles problem in the Asian part of the USSR and on U.S. territory was also stated, if U.S. nuclear means were withdrawn from Japan, South Korea, the Philippines and carrier fleets in the Pacific were confined to agreed areas.

It would seem that all the obstacles in the way of eliminating medium and operational and tactical missiles have been removed. But the West is putting forward new conditions and provisos and coming up with an endless chain of different problems.

Wherein lies their essence? First and foremost is the U.S. desire to replace the destruction of Pershing-2 missiles with a "harmless" operation reequipping them (mainly by removing the second stage) as Pershing 1B'S. Incidentally, this procedure has already been developed at Martin Marietta enterprises. We note that the reverse operation takes just 48 hours. The conclusion is obvious: Permitting such an option would mean recognizing that the elimination of Pershing-2's was a fiction and virtually consenting to their retention by the United States, only under a different name.

Nor can the U.S. desire to be entitled to redeploy (instead of destroy) its ground-launched cruise missiles from Western Europe to submarines and surface ships be a basis for serious discussion. Some people would like to leave these missiles in their former positions altogether, merely replacing their nuclear warheads with conventional warheads.

Nor is the cause of reducing levels of military confrontation served by the U.S. claims to site its medium-range missiles in Alaska from where they could reach Soviet territory. This is essentially a buildup in the nuclear threat to the Soviet Union. But Soviet medium-range missiles in Asia, as is well known, pose no threat to U.S. territory.

The FRG Government's desire to retain 72 Pershing 1A operational and tactical missiles with a range of 740 km on FRG territory is a serious obstacle to reaching an agreement. [paragraph continues]

The Pershing 1A missiles in service with the FRG Air Force do indeed belong to West Germany, and nobody is planning to take the Bonn generals' favorite "toy" away from them. But the nuclear warheads for these missiles belong to the Americans. We must assume that Federal Chancellor H. Kohl is well aware of this. Nonetheless, speaking in the Bundestag recently, he stated: "The 72 German Pershing 1A missiles cannot be included in the U.S.-Soviet 'zero' option." But in an interview with the newspaper DIE WELT U.S. President R. Reagan said: "...The United States will not hold talks about the systems of third countries. The Russians demanded no limitations on the Pershing 1A missiles held by the Germans. They did not raise the matter at the 1985 summit, the 1986 Reykjavik summit, or during the meetings between Secretary of State Shultz and leading Soviet politicians in Moscow this April." There is only one authentic statement in these claims: The West German missiles were not and are not a topic at the Geneva talks between the USSR and the United States. These talks are discussing the elimination of medium-range missiles, operational and tactical missiles, and the corresponding nuclear warheads held by only two powers -- the Soviet Union and the United States.

As for "third countries," whose systems are not a topic at the talks, we note that in this case this refers to the European nuclear powers -- Britain and France -- whose corresponding arsenals and weapons systems have been set aside; that is, they are not taken into account at the talks. Therein lies our great concession to the West, and we stress -- it is a concession. But it does not extend to the FRG. After all, West Germany is not a nuclear power.

Whereas previously the United States and its NATO allies tried to claim that arming the Bundeswehr with Pershing 1A missiles was not a violation of the nonproliferation treaty, since -- so they claimed -- the FRG still had no right to use those weapons unilaterally, a qualitatively different situation is now taking shape. West Germany's desire to dictate whether or not this type of nuclear weapon can be eliminated amounts to an attempt to enter the "nuclear club" by the back door and obtain control over the firing button in practice. In other words, it is a question of infringing the fundamental principle of the nonproliferation treaty, Article 2 of which prohibits the nonnuclear powers from controlling nuclear weapons. As for the United States, its consent to such actions by Bonn demonstrates the U.S. side's desire to break its commitments under Article 1 of the treaty, which prohibits the nuclear powers from transferring control of nuclear weapons to nonnuclear countries.

So why are people in the West insisting on the "special status" of the Pershing 1A's? What is the essence of the NATO stratagems regarding these missiles?

The answer is simple: After eliminating Soviet operational and tactical missiles the Americans would like to find themselves to be in practice the only owners of this class of nuclear missile weapon in Europe by retaining their warheads on the Bundeswehr's missiles. And the Bonn Defense Ministry is perpared to go further. It is planning to replace Pershing 1A's with more modern Pershing 1B's. Yet these are precisely the missiles which would not be hard to reequip as Pershing-2 missiles. This is what the appeal of the West German freedom-fighters' coordinating committee has to say on the subject: "Whoever intends to retain Pershing 1A's with nuclear warheads is opposed to 'double zero.' Zero plus zero does not equal 1A. Whoever says Pershing 1A also says Pershing 1B." That is how Bonn wants to retain a loophole to carry out a new "arms upgrading" of the Bundeswehr using improved operational and tactical missiles able to carry nuclear charges. One's attention is drawn to a report in the U.S. newspaper DEFENSE NEWS. It states that even after the 108 Pershing-2 missiles are withdrawn from European soil, their technology may still prove useful. Weapons contractors and Pentagon leaders are sure that this sill be followed by the creation [sozdaniye] of a version of the Pershing which will be deployed as a battlefield missile. [paragraph continues]

And it turns out that the highly accurate guidance system on the Pershing-2 can be used on other missiles that have already been deployed. That is why people in the West, while referring with approval to the idea of eliminating Soviet and U.S. medium-range and operational and tactical missiles in Europe, immediately stated that "there can be no question of an unconditional adoption of the Soviet proposal for a zero option for missiles with a range of 500-1,000 km." That is why West Germany is simultaneously "pro" and "con" the zero option. NATO is also dominated by the "nuclear deterrence" concept, to which there is allegedly "no alternative in the foreseeable future." So there should be no talk as yet about a resolute breakthrough in the West's approach to security questions.

NATO's "yes" to the "double zero" is undoubtedly progress. There is hope that the Soviet and U.S. representatives in Geneva will now find it easier to reach agreement. It is also a fact that the recent NATO Council Session's adoption of the proposal to eliminate operational and tactical missiles along with medium-range missiles would have been harder to achieve without the dynamism of Soviet foreign policy and the pressure on the Atlanticists from the antiwar movement. Nonetheless Europe is currently going through a complex period. It is a kind of moment of truth for the continent. Breaking with the dangerous trend of the nuclear arms race requires state wisdom and political will. It is time to translate the process of ridding the European Continent of its mountains of nuclear weapons into practice. Agreement is possible, but the obstacles in the way of its achievement have not yet been wholly eradicated. Will there be an agreement or not? It is up to the West. Political realism and common sense must prevail.

SDI: 'GREATEST DECEPTION OF THE PEOPLES'

PM081723 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 2 Jul 87 First Edition p 3

[Article by Major General Yu. Lyubimov, doctor of technical sciences: "The Greatest Deception of the Peoples"]

[Text] The Soviet Union's position regarding the absolute inadmissibility of the arms race spreading to space is well known. "We resolutely reject plans for 'Star Wars,' countering them with a complex of initiatives aimed at building extensive cooperation in the peaceful research and development of space in the interests of all mankind," M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, said in response to a joint statement by the leaders of Argentina, Greece, India, Mexico, Tanzania, and Sweden.

Different, directly opposite aims are pursued by the United States, which is admitted from time to time even at government level. Here, for example, is a revelation by Defense Secretary C. Weinberger: "If we can create a system which will be sufficiently effective and which will make their (the Soviet Union's -- Yu. L.) weapons useless, we will once again be in a position comparable, say, to the time when we were the only country with nuclear weapons." So, by implementing the SDI program, Washington intends to gain a position equivalent to the one-time American nuclear monopoly.

The role played by SDI, falsely termed defensive, becomes clearer if we consider it in the context of the U.S. current main programs in the strategic arms sphere. There are programs to develop and produce new missile systems (MX, Midgetmen, Trident-2, and Pershing-2); new strategic bombers (B-1B, and the "invisible" ATB); ASAT; and strategic cruise missiles. It is intended to manufacture hundreds and thousands of every type of means of attack. All this is intended to sharply increase U.S. offensive potential.

One cannot ignore the work schedules on the aforementioned programs. Development of the latest Midgetmen system is planned for 1992, and after that it will be deployed.

The Americans are now proposing to observe the ABM Treaty only until 1994 in connection with work on the SDI program. Why? Because it is planned to complete the deployment of all new high-accuracy nuclear strike means by roughly this stage and begin the deployment of the first "Star Wars" facilities.

The SDI program envisages resolving a multitude of highly complex technological problems connected with the arms race and developing new materials, products, and designs. This is its particular danger, because it will provide incentive to improve and create other highly diverse strike weapons as well as ABM facilities. SDI will begin another chapter in the arms buildup. Very substantial appropriations are being made for the development of the component base, information systems, communication systems, and computer equipment in the first 5-year period through 1989.

It is subsequently planned to deploy heavy space vehicles with powerful large-array radar facilities and digital data processing on board. These space vehicles will also have the latest optical intelligence equipment for detecting small targets by reflected sunlight and their own, even weak, heat emission. It is thought that this will make it possible to differentiate well and simultaneously track a large number of targets in the atmosphere, on earth, and on the sea's surface, monitor missile launches, and track their flight. The highly accurate information systems being developed as part of the SDI program will be multipurpose -- they will also be used in the operation of offensive strategic facilities.

Military specialists in the United States realize it would be impossible to disarm the USSR with a surprise nuclear attack. A crushing counterstrike would be inevitable. And so the idea of creating a reliable ABM system with space-based elements has appeared in certain U.S. circles with the aim of ensuring that an attack could be carried out with impunity. Imagine if one of the sides -- in this case the United States aspires to this -- were to increase its offensive potential and simultaneously create an ABM system, successively giving it the capacity to repel an attack by 100, 500, 1,000 missiles and ultimately, according to Reagan, turning it into a shield against any number of missiles. There is a point in the dynamics of this buildup in offensive and ABM forces beyond which the strategic balance would be upset. Let us suppose that after the first disarming American strike, the other side had 500 missiles left intact. It is not hard to see that if the United States were to gain the unilateral ability by means of its ABM forces to destroy these remaining 500 missiles, this would mean that its military potential would allow it to carry out a disarming strike of sufficient strength and repel a counterstrike.

In light of these projects, dangerous, adventurist appeals by Weinberger to build relations with the USSR and other socialist countries "from a position of strength and from a position of even greater strength in the future" become clearer.

But does the United States have the ability to deploy such a reliable ABM system? Even American specialists believe that even if it were possible to create an ABM system capable of acting as a shield in any condition, it could not be done before the end of the century. And then only on the condition that the enemy sits idly by, so to speak. They point out that it will be extremely complicated to ensure a high degree of survivability and efficiency regarding the main, space-based echelon of the ABM system, as the cost of anti-ABM means or the development of low-vulnerability missiles could be considerably less than the cost of the ABM means themselves. So the deployment of an ABM system to counter a retaliatory strike within the context of SDI is considered more realistic and possible by the end of this century. Work has been in progress in the United States for many years now to develop and create ground-based ABM complexes: "Safeguard," "HEDI," "Sentry," and "ERIS." The new, powerful "Pave Paws" long-range radar system has been installed on the periphery of U.S. territory and also in Britain and Greenland. [paragraph continues]

This system has a phased array and has the capacity and accuracy to give target designations to land-based ABM systems.

The SDI program also envisages the development of space-based ABM means. The greatest progress has been made in the development of smart interceptor missiles designed to strike space vehicles as well as missiles. This means that they can fulfill both defensive and offensive functions -- to wage a battle for domination in space. It is admitted in this respect that if strike means are created for space, the means will soon appear to knock out targets on earth from space. A strike from space is considered the most unexpected. It can be carried out in a matter of minutes to try to paralyze the system for the control of strategic nuclear forces and reduce the scale of counter measures.

The United States is trying to create antimissile missiles as part of the SDI program that weigh as little as possible: up to 150-200 kilograms, with smart warheads of up to 5 kilograms, and acceleration speeds of up to 5-6 km per second. Presently, the minimum warhead weight is several times greater than this. A solution to this highly complex technical problem would make it possible to have thousands of antimissile missiles on earth and in space.

The expensive STS-2 program envisages the development of a new generation of missile delivery vehicles with a payload of between 135 and 450 tonnes. It is planned to have three launch complexes for them in the immediate future. One asks, how many combat space platforms with antimissile missiles on board can be taken into space using these three delivery vehicles? If one hypothetically takes platforms weighing up to 20 tonnes, each carrying 50 missiles (according to figures given by U.S. specialists), it will be possible to take approximately 20-60 platforms with 1,000-3,000 missiles virtually simultaneously. With half a revolution, this entire shoal of missiles would be able to reach the territory of any country, thereby posing a serious threat.

In the future, despite the fantastic cost, could follow projects for more complex systems incorporating 400-600 or more combat platforms prelaunched into space and covered with a large number of decoys which would draw the whole planet into the ominous web. This kind of global network would ensure the use of antimissile missiles or other types of strike weapons at any time and over any territory.

As we can see, claims that the SDI program is intended only for defense, and only for defense against Soviet missiles at that, are false through and through. This, M.S. Gorbachev has said, is "the greatest deception of the peoples" and "we consider it our duty to highlight the serious danger posed by SDI to the whole world."

The SDI program also includes extensive long-term work on arms based on new physical principles: laser, accelerator, electrodynamic, microwave, and nuclear-pumped weapons. The head of the SDI program himself, General Abrahamson, has admitted that laser beams from space could be used for carrying out strikes against cities.

In the United States itself, more and more voices are being loudly raised by those who soberly appraise the danger posed by implementation of the SDI program. Noteworthy in this respect is the opinion held by Robert Bowman, who once held the post of director of a military space program which included, in particular, research for Reagan's "Strategic Defense Initiative." "The 'Star Wars' concept is a colossal deception of the American people," R. Bowman has said. "It is an attempt to portray as a means of defense something that is in actuality an instrument of aggression."

This evaluation requires no comment.

JOINT TROOP EXERCISES TO BE HELD IN CSSR

LD081619 Moscow TASS in English 1558 GMT 8 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow July 8 TASS -- Over the period from July 15 to 21, joint troop exercises of the central group of troops and the Czechoslovak People's Army are due to be held in the area of Jachymov, Karlovy Vary, Melnik, Liberec and Decin in Czechoslovakia's territory in agreement with that country's government. The exercises are aimed at perfecting the field training standards of troops.

Taking part in the exercises will be formations and units of ground troops and the airforce. The total number of troops participating in the exercises will be 17,000.

In keeping with the document of the Stockholm conference, the Czechoslovak Government has invited for the exercises observers from all the states -- participants in the Conference on European Security and Cooperation.

POLISH OFFICIALS MEET WITH PACT PARLIAMENTARIANS

LD040123 Moscow TASS in English 2237 GMT 3 Jul 87

[Text] Warsaw July 3 TASS -- Today Zbigniew Messner, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party, chairman of Poland's Council of Ministers, received the presidents of parliaments of the Warsaw Treaty member states whose meeting ended in the Polish capital.

Roman Malinowski, marshal of the Polish Sejm, spoke of the results and decisions of the meeting aimed at further increasing the activity of the parliaments of the countries of the socialist community in the name of all-round development and strengthening of the integration of the fraternal countries as well as improvement of the international situation.

When greeting the participants in the forum on behalf of the Polish leadership, Zbigniew Messner emphasized that continuous cooperation and exchanges of experience between the parliaments of the Warsaw Treaty member states would contribute to further broadening the fraternal countries' interaction in refining the economic and social mechanisms of socialist development, in lending greater dynamism to the processes of international cooperation as well as to building confidence and consolidating detente in international relations, particularly in Europe.

Lev Tolkunov, chairman of the Soviet of the Union of the USSR Supreme Soviet, emphasized in his speech the role of parliaments in effecting changes that are taking place in socialist countries as well as the importance of their activities aimed at ensuring support in the international arena for the initiatives in the field of disarmament and peaceful policy of the Warsaw Treaty member states.

WEEKLY 'INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS ROUNDTABLE'

LD051838 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1130 GMT 5 Jul 87

["International Observers Roundtable" program with Professor Valentin Sergeyevich Zorin, political observer for Moscow Radio and Television; Vitaliy Ivanovich Kobysh, publicist; and Vladimir Yakovlevich Tsvetov, political observer for Moscow Radio and Television]

[Text] [Tsvetov] Hello, comrades. There is no need, of course, to talk at length about the large role our country plays in the international arena and the Soviet Union's enormous influence on international affairs. It's perfectly natural, therefore, that the deep changes taking place in the Soviet Union are attracting universal attention. There is a reason for this: The fact being that both the state and our prospects in the rivalry between socialism and capitalism depend on the success of restructuring. The outcome of the contest between the forces of progress and reaction and between the forces of peace and war also depend on the success of restructuring. This is understood, I think, by the overwhelming majority of the populations of many different countries, not only of socialist ones. Yet, both foreign news media and foreign politicians are not always correct. They are, more often than not, dishonest in evaluating the nature of restructuring and of openness: in other words, the processes now taking place in our country.

[Zorin] I think there is one unusual fact we ought to note above all, and that is even if the curtain the mass media have for decades set up around life in our country has not collapsed, at least deep tears have appeared in it. I, for example...

[Kobysh, interrupting] This is actually something new.

[Zorin] Yes. Every day I open the Western newspapers and magazines that land on my desk, and I see a huge amount of material on the recent CPSU Central Committee plenum, the Supreme Soviet session. I was going to say that, indubitably, last week's two events have been the focus of attention of all the world press; but then something brought me up short, because we so often...

[Kobysh, interrupting] It is such a common phrase.

[Zorin] Yes, we have often habitually called so many things the focus of attention -- and, incidentally, the claim has not always been justified -- that I am afraid the fact that this now really is the main theme of the entire world press could be taken by our listeners as a routine statement. Yet it really is so.

[Kobysh] Don't be afraid, Valentin Sergeyevich, because I'm now going to tell you what they are saying. This will not be the way we put it. In an article -- I don't like quoting, but in this case I simply want to give chapter and verse -- in an article from New York under the headline "U.S. Media Full of the New Russia," the London paper THE TIMES writes as follows: "The Soviet leader, Gorbachev, may still be trying to restructure the Soviet media -- but he has already succeeded in restructuring the U.S. media. Every time you switch on a television set in the United States, you will see documentary films about the new Russia or one of the current representatives of the Kremlin. The magazines give much space to showing everyday life from Riga to Khabarovsk."

Here is what another organ writes. Here the story is more complicated, but I'll take up your time with it because it's worth it: "Moscow was not built in a day" -- this was written after the session of the USSR Supreme Soviet -- "and the revolution in the Soviet economy will not happen in an hour. No one expects the Soviet regime to give up its Marxist orientation altogether" -- you see the sort of talk they're beginning to indulge in: Evidently someone does expect it! -- "and certain changes will come about only gradually. But after the decades of onerous and monotonous production plans imposed from above, Soviet consumers may at last have a say in deciding what should and should not be produced. There is a long, hard road ahead, and we wish the restructurers success in improving the quality of life of Soviet people."

[Zorin] I'd like us to give listeners an answer to the quite natural question, what has happened? What has happened to the media, and why have they begun to talk like this? Well, the explanation closest to hand is a simple one: sensationalism. What is taking place is sensational, and for the bourgeois press, sensation is the great thing. It gives them a chance to attract attention, readers and consequently advertising, and so on. This assertion will contain a grain of truth. But I venture to say; that it will be small and beside the point. The undoubtedly staggering things that are happening are on such a scale and of such significance that the petty calculation of the propagandists and the desire to grind a propaganda axe recede into the background. If the Western press fails to respond in some way or other to what is going on in the Soviet Union it runs the risk of losing the confidence of its audience and losing readers. It can't take that risk, and evidently that's the important reason. There is another reason I want to mention with a certain caution, but I'll mention it just the same. We've been talking a lot recently about the new thinking. We want that new thinking, we are striving for it. There is no doubt that in the new thinking, we are ahead of many countries and many statesmen. But it ought to be admitted that the realities of our age are also forcing the more sober-minded representatives of the bourgeoisie to think in a new way. The fact that they are turning their attention to the events that are happening among us, and making a serious attempt to interpret them, trying to understand them -- I'm not talking about attempts to distort them, we'll come to that later -- this attempt to understand is also an important reason which ought, perhaps, to be looked upon as one of the shoots of the new thinking that are breaking through on the other side.

[Kobysh] I quoted the statement that what is happening now in the Soviet Union may not signify that Marxist orientation is being totally abandoned. Certainly, someone hopes very much that the cooperative cafes and private taxis are going to lead to a degeneration of the Soviet system. They have great expectations that this will happen.

[Tsvetov] You know, it seems to me that this premise on the part of our ideological opponents has another aspect to it: Paradoxical as it may sound, it's precisely because the Soviet Union is solving its economic problems without straying from the socialist path that they have conceived this desire to prove that the USSR is going back to capitalism. Let me explain what I mean: Insofar as the foreign propagandists realize that restructuring will bring us economic success and improve our prosperity, it is very tempting to claim these successes as successes of capitalism.

[Kobysh] They've given up...

[Tsvetov] Yes, that, see -- they've given up socialism and now they're doing fine!

[Zorin] This, Vladimir Yakovlevich, is one of possibly three basic models -- here we're getting on to the subject of how they are trying to distort or turn around in a way favorable to themselves the events that are taking place in our country -- it's one of the models, one of the stories, that are now being put about: What's happening in the Soviet Union amounts, virtually, to an admission that the socialist systems is bankrupt and an attempt to achieve certain economic aims by switching to a capitalist system.

This loses sight entirely of the fundamental fact that this system which has supposedly failed and is now supposedly being abolished, is the system which, in a very short period of history, transformed one of the world's most backward countries into one of the most advanced countries of the world. That did not happen at the wave of a magic wand, but as a result of the operation of the socialist economic system, which set a pace unknown to the lauded capitalist system. This is the system that placed in the hands of the Soviet people an economic potential which proved sufficient to break the back of what was at the time one of the most highly developed capitalist countries of the world; a country that had laid hands on the economic mechanism of virtually the whole of Western Europe. This system, of which the Western propagandists are today trying to speak with such scorn on the basis of what is happening in the Soviet Union, healed in a very short time the deepest wounds, wounds which -- in the opinion of economic experts in the West who have to be taken very seriously -- a capitalist economy would have taken a lot longer to treat and would have healed with far greater difficulty. Consequently, to interpret what is now happening in our country as an abandonment of socialism and an admission that it is bankrupt is to falsify and -- in simple language -- to cheat in a big way.

[Tsvetov] I'd like to add to what has been said. Our ideological opponents argue as follows: Restructuring is revolution; and once you have a revolution, you're putting an end to one system and returning to the other system. But they forget that, though our reforms are indeed revolutionary, they do not involve the replacement of one means of production by another. The revolutionary changes are taking place within the framework of one socioeconomic formation; and it's not a case of one state power being substituted for another, but rather of a deepening of the socialist sovereignty of the people.

[Zorin] It's not that there's a transition from socialism to capitalism or to something else; rather, the point is, as Mikhail Sergeyevich has said, that we need more socialism and more democracy.

[Kobysh] I want to say something on more socialism and more democracy.

[Tsvetov] Our whole life is directed toward ensuring human rights; but unfortunately, like Moliere's hero who was talking prose but didn't know it, we've been inclined simply to take this for granted. Now that the subject is beginning to be debated, we've discovered that we are assured of employment; that no one has any fear of finding himself on the street, however great our difficulties in solving the housing problem; and that no one goes hungry.

[Kobysh] I'd like to cite a fact that would make us laugh if it were not so sad to see a serious newspaper making a fool of itself. The British paper THE TIMES has written that the measures proposed by the CPSU Central Committee plenum are similar to the steps that the Thatcher government has taken or intends to take. [laughter] No more, no less! The idea is that Thatcher has established herself in British eyes as a convinced anticommunist, so the man in the street in Britain can only conclude that the Soviet leaders are switching to capitalism. Or else they are trying to join the bandwagon of what is at present in favor with public opinion, and argue: Why knock Thatcher for doing what Gorbachev is doing?

There is a second model I'd like to mention in this conversation with our listeners, a model of the way they're trying to reduce the impact of what is happening in our country.

This is a kind of deliberate skepticism, which says yes, Gorbachev has indeed put forward far-reaching and decisive measures at the plenum; yes, important decisions have been taken by the Supreme Soviet -- but nothing will come of it. That it's impossible. The system of proofs that it's impossible has been taken from a Chekhovian source, his "Letters of a Learned Neighbor": This cannot be happening, because it's something that can never happen. Our opponents do not go beyond that logic; but what one notices is that all this is being said terribly nervously -- very loudly and stridently. In itself, this nervousness suggests that they don't believe what they're saying, because if they're so sure our plans are unrealistic, then why should they be nervous.

[Zorin] On the contrary, they should be glad.

[Kobysh] Nothing to worry about.

[Tsvetov] Here, on occasions, even the serious foreign mass information organs play the imbecile. Here's what NEWSWEEK writes: "The reforms as a whole have shaken up Soviet society and ensured a certain economic growth, but there are no real signs of an improvement in life." The people who work for NEWSWEEK are certainly not stupid, and they realize that to raise the people's welfare one needs to ensure a reliable economic base. This cannot possibly be achieved in 1 week, 1 month or 1 quarter. It takes a summer just to grow a single ear of corn, and it takes more than 1 year to grow a fruit tree.

[Zorin] Regarding the attempts at distorting both that which was discussed at the CPSU Central Committee plenum and the decisions adopted by the Supreme Soviet session, one cannot fail to mention the falsifiers' third model -- "success with the reform will increase the Soviet Union's military potential, and therefore it harbors a threat toward the West!" Here they use an unscrupulous propaganda gambit -- an attempt to separate the Soviet Union's domestic policy from its foreign policy. The course of measures which have now been elaborated by the party and adopted by the Supreme Soviet in our domestic life are an indissoluble part of the Soviet Union's foreign policy, and that foreign policy shows that we are directing all our efforts not to augmenting the military threat, nor to using the potential which will grow as a result of the measures we are now planning to harm anyone, but on the contrary -- the whole of Soviet foreign policy is actively directed to reducing the military danger. As Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev very sensibly said, nobody will be the worse off for the fact that the Soviet people are living better. This is what they are now attempting to distort.

[Isvetov] I shall tell you why -- or rather, not me, but the U.S. newspaper NEWSDAY. Here's what it writes: "If the restructuring is successful, the Soviet Union might quite unexpectedly become a more important factor in the world economy than all seven states which took part in the Venice Summit." As we recall, those countries were the United States, Canada and the most developed countries in Western Europe.

[Zorin] Every day we hear that public opinion polls are being carried out and that they indicate that the vast majority of Westerners believe that the Soviet Union is striving to reinforce a stable peace and to eliminate the threat of nuclear war, while the West, led by the United States, is, on the contrary, doing its utmost to prevent this. This is no propaganda, but a fact of their life, and naturally it upsets their equilibrium.

[Isvetov] This fact has to be blurred somehow, it has to be countered by something, and it is countered by the argument which you, Valentin Sergeyevich, has just mentioned.

But I would like to draw attention to yet another factor which is now playing a large role in world affairs, and which is directly connected with the CPSU Central Committee plenum and the Supreme Soviet session. Once again, I take the liberty of quoting from a U.S. newspaper. It writes as follows: "If the Soviet leader's far-reaching plans aimed at economic and political reforms are even semi-successful, the USSR will offer the world an attractive alternative. The developing countries will have more weighty grounds for striving to reinforce their links with the Soviet Union in counterposition to U.S. domination." Just how productive this close contact between the Soviet Union and the nonaligned countries is can be judged from the India Festival now underway in the Soviet Union.

You, our radio listeners, most likely watched the relay of the opening of the festival on Friday and listened to the speech by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev and the reply address by Gandhi, the Indian prime minister. I would like to draw attention to the following thought expressed by Mikhail Sergeyevich: The stability of Soviet-Indian relations is based on the strong foundation of trust. The Soviet Union demands that others relate to it in such a way as to rule out encroachments on our independence or any denial of our right to an independent path of development, and at the same time displays precisely such an attitude toward other countries, in particular toward India. This is where the trust has its origin.

[Kobysh] This is very important as a model relationship between two countries, and moreover two gigantic countries with different social and political systems. We can not only live in peace, we can actively cooperate, be friends, help one another and...

[Tsvetov, interrupting] And act together in the interests of peace [mir].

[Kobysh] ...and act together in the interests...

[Tsvetov, interrupting] I would like to recall the Delhi Declaration, for it is a document of new political thinking. It is the 10 principles of a non-violent world, the 10 principles of a world free of nuclear weapons. Finally, it is the 10 principles for replacing fear and suspiciousness by mutual understanding and trust.

[Zorin] To appreciate the scale of the events now taking place before our eyes in Moscow -- the Soviet-Indian Festival -- I think it would be worthwhile recalling the dreams and assessments of Vladimir Ilich Lenin, who spoke of the prospects which are opened up and will be opened up for the world if two mighty and gigantic countries like Russia and India unite their efforts.

What we are observing these days is the materialization, if you like, of Vladimir Ilich's dream.

[Tsvetov] To continue talking on this subject, I would like to say that the colossal program for restructuring put forward at the CPSU Central Committee plenum has also thrown a new light on the peace initiatives which the Soviet Union advocates. The country which launches such wide economic reforms cannot think about building up armaments at the same time. Surely, these revolutionary reforms require maximum exertion of effort. A U.S. expert, touching on disarmament, calculated that over the past 2 years the Soviet Union has undertaken 25 serious steps in the direction toward the position of the United States on arms control.

Twenty-five! At the same time he calculated that the United States has made literally only a handful of steps along the way to meet the Soviet position. Obviously there is no point in my listing all the 25 Soviet steps. But I still think that it is permissible to point to the major ones.

The position of the Soviet Union has attained maximum proximity to the position of the United States on the matter of medium-range missiles and operational and tactical missiles. The Soviet Union has excluded medium-range missiles from the total number of the U.S. strategic missiles which are being taken into account. Second, the Soviet Union has agreed that British and French missiles should not be taken into consideration although these missiles -- the British ones in particular -- are being aimed at us. Finally, the Soviet Union has isolated the issue of middle-range missiles from the set of problems which includes strategic weapons, space weapons, etc. Then the Soviet Union has agreed to the U.S. demand that the question of medium-range missiles should be discussed together with the question of operational and tactical missiles, while the United States is going back on its word.

[Kobysh] A question, of course, arises in connection with the fact that the Soviet Union is making concessions all the time without, so to speak, getting anything in return.

[Tsvetov] We are making concessions. But we definitely know that these concessions will take us to the goal for which we have been striving. If we attain this goal with regard to medium-range missiles in Europe, the whole mechanism can be launched into action. Then the matter of the elimination of nuclear weapons by the end of this century can become quite practicable.

[Zorin] I wouldn't say we've been making concessions to the United States. I would say we have recently made a number of concessions to common sense. That this brings about a rapproachement between our position and that of the United States -- well, thank goodness for that. But we are not giving in to the pressure exerted by the United States. We have never ever placed the security of the Soviet people under threat in anything, and we will never do so. If anybody thinks our economic plans are dependent on whether military measures of one kind or another are forced on us, and that if we have to respond to these military measures we would have to abandon our economic plans, he makes another of the major mistakes in which Washington's postwar policy has been so rich. Of course, it will be more difficult. Of course, certain corrections will have to be introduced into our plans. But the Soviet Union -- and our leaders have made clear and unambiguous statements on this time and again -- will both implement its economic program and continue doing everything to guarantee the complete security of our people.

[Tsvetov] A very good acquaintance of mine, a rather important Japanese businessman, has recently been in Moscow during the plenum. He knows and reads Russian well. He has carefully read the report of Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, as well as the decisions of the plenum. So, naturally, I asked him what his impression was. He told me what had struck him most. In spite of the rigorous self-criticism and in spite of mercilessly exposing our own shortcomings, Gorbachev's speech was pervaded by a certrain unaccountable -- it is unaccountable for him, the Japanese man -- confidence in the successful result of restructuring. We understand this confidence and it is quite explainable. For we proceed from historical optimism and from the condition of our historical rightness. On this I would like to say goodbye to you, comrades. All the best.

TASS STATEMENT ON BILATERAL U.S. RELATIONS

LD081702 Moscow TASS in English 1650 GMT 8 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow July 8 TASS -- Follows full text of a TASS statement:

The attention of the international public is now riveted on Soviet-U.S. relations.

In many respects, it is precisely this context that will decide the question of whether the historic chance to overcome the confrontational development of the situation in the world, and to make the first step, and therefore a particularly difficult and necessary one, in the cause of ridding mankind of the nuclear danger will be utilised.

There are now prerequisites for the implementation of the accords reached in Reykjavik, first and foremost, those on the elimination of medium-range missiles in Europe and, possibly, on other cardinal issues of nuclear disarmament. The conclusion of such an agreement would not only signify a breakthrough in the decisive field of security but would also promote a substantial improvement of Soviet-U.S. relations, and international ones as well.

It is understandable that such a crucial moment requires a particularly responsible approach and a well-considered policy in big and little things. Any ill-considered hostility, or, the more so, deliberately fomented one, supported at the level of state leadership, is capable of preventing headway towards reaching agreement. This is also understood by U.S. ultrarightist political circles which have set themselves as an object to slam at the last moment and at all costs the slightly open door to agreement.

Those influential forces, as has already been the case in the past, have chosen virtually the periphery of bilateral relations as a springboard for their counter-offensive.

This time an anti-Soviet campaign, into which the Congress, some politicians who, in pursuit of popularity on the eve of elections, and, regrettably, individual representatives of the administration have been drawn, has been launched in connection with the construction of new embassy compounds of the Soviet Union and the United States in Washington and Moscow. Pleading that the new U.S. Embassy in Moscow has been ostensibly built almost on marshy ground and, besides, is 'stuffed with Soviet listening devices', it is being demanded in the United States that Soviet diplomats be not admitted to the new building of the Soviet Embassy in Washington, that all that has been built in the two capitals be pulled down, and, besides, that the Soviet side make up for the cost of the work which has already been done, in other words, an ultimatum is being delivered.

One need not be particularly sharp to realise why it was decided to launch this anti-Soviet campaign not somewhere but at the construction sites in Moscow and Washington with an obvious intention to disorganize the diplomatic work of the embassies at such an important moment. It is precisely over there that U.S. secret services are now trying to operate so unceremoniously. Quite recently they were again caught in the act. Vivid proofs of the mass planting of listening devices in the office rooms and living quarters of Soviet missions in the United States were shown to journalists simultaneously in Washington and Moscow.

The purpose of numerous antennas and other devices which the U.S. Embassy in Moscow bristles with is no secret to anyone either. Mentioning the location of the new Embassy of the USA, the site for it was selected by the Americans themselves and was included in the intergovernmental agreement signed by the United States in 1969.

The embassy site, as is known, is located practically in downtown Moscow. As far as the so-called technical penetration is concerned, the American side does not give concrete proofs. The attention of the U.S. side has been repeatedly drawn to this circumstance. Endeavours to conceal the unseemly deeds of the U.S.' own secret services by means of such an overt slander won't work. Any attempts at provoking, and at putting pressure on the Soviet Union are doomed to failure, of course.

As for the main thing, which the opponents of any improvement in international and Soviet-U.S. affairs are trying to undermine, much in this respect will depend on a decision by the U.S. leadership itself: Whether it will have enough political will and boldness to resist the onslaught from the right or it will yield to the temptation to bolster up its positions through habitual anti-Soviet rhetoric and will roll back to the postitions of confrontation. One would like to believe that the U.S. Administration is fully aware of possible consequences and will make the right choice.

U.S., SOVIET EXPERTS DISCUSS MIDEAST IN GENEVA

LD081646 Moscow TASS in English 1636 GMT 8 Jul 87

[Text] [no dateline as received] Another Soviet-American exchange of views on the situation in the Middle East took place in Geneva at the level of experts on July 6-7.

The Soviet side was represented by Vladimir Polyakov, a member of the collegium, head of the department of the countries of the Middle East and North Africa of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R., and the American side -- by Richard Murphy, assistant U.S. secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs.

The discussion centered on matters related to the settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and termination of the Iranian-Iraqi war. Soviet-American consultations of the affairs of the Middle East will continue.

HOWARD BAKER'S COMMENTS ON GULF WELCOMED

LD081838 Moscow TASS in English 1825 GMT 8 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow July 8 TASS -- Moscow has paid attention to a statement of Howard Baker, White House chief of staff, on the U.S. readiness to assess in a new way the situation in the Persian Gulf under certain conditions with a view to reducing U.S. naval presence there.

The Soviet Government has suggested already that all the naval ships of the countries which do not belong to the Persian Gulf area be withdrawn from the Gulf as soon as possible.

If the above mentioned statement of the White House chief of staff means a positive attitude, on the whole, to the Soviet proposal, we welcome the statement as a step in the right direction, a TASS correspondent has been told. The impression is that the United States is considering a possibility of joining the USSR in moving along the path proposed by it, specifically that of withdrawing naval ships from the Persian Gulf.

This turn of events would be undoubtedly welcomed by countries of that region which are concerned over the growth of tension brought about to a considerable extent by the U.S. naval buildup in the Persian Gulf area.

RAZUMOVSKIY-LED DELEGATION VISITS SHANGHAI

PM081123 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 8 Jul 87 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "On a Tour of China"]

[Text] Shanghai, 7 Jul -- The delegation of the Legislative Proposals Commissions of the USSR Supreme Soviet chambers led by Georgiy Razumovskiy, chairman of the Legislative Proposals Commission of the Soviet of the Union and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, arrived today in one of the country's major industrial centers -- Shanghai, a city of revolutionary, fighting, and labor traditions.

A meeting took place between the delegation and the leadership of the permanent committee of the city assembly of people's representatives. It was conducted in a warm and friendly atmosphere. The sides briefed each other on changes in the USSR and the PRC. The Chinese comrades were briefed on the results of the CPSU Central Committee June Plenum and the new laws adopted at a session of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

The Soviet delegation noted that the USSR follows with great interest the implementation and deepening of the reform of the Chinese economy. The Soviet Union proceeds from the fact that the improvement of Soviet-Chinese relations and their transition into the channel of good-neighborly cooperation corresponds to the fundamental interests of the peoples of the two states and to the interests of strengthening peace and security in Asia and worldwide. Satisfaction was expressed in connection with the broadening of ties and contacts between cities of the USSR and the PRC.

The Chinese side said that China and the Soviet Union are neighboring countries between which -- along with the development of economic relations -- friendly contacts in scientific-technical, cultural, sport, and other spheres have strengthened recently. There are possibilities for the further broadening of relations.

The USSR Supreme Soviet deputies visited the Baoshan metallurgical combine and a television factory. The collectives at these enterprises cordially greeted the Soviet guests and told them about the tasks that they are solving in the process of implementation of the economic reform in industry.

FURTHER ON DOBRYNIN SPEECH AT ASIA-PACIFIC MEETING

LD071119 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0725 GMT 7 Jul 87

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 7 Jul (TASS) -- A.F. Dobrynin, head of the CPSU delegation and a secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, spoke in the course of discussions at a consultative meeting which opened here today, of the representatives of communist and revolutionary democratic parties, "for peace, security and goodneighbourly cooperation in the Asian Pacific region."

He expressed the hope that the Ulaanbaatar meeting would mark the strengthening of unity in the ranks, cooperation, and its expansion and the attainment of a new level of mutual understanding among the fraternal parties. This constitutes the fundamental task of the meeting. The meeting is taking place in a crucial and complex period when national and regional problems have become tangled in a single knot with those of mankind in general. The main one of these problems is to avert the nuclear self-destruction of humanity. The countries of the Asia-Pacific region, where a large part of the world's population lives, can and should make a weighty contribution to dealing with this task. Life itself puts the task of guaranteeing peace and security to the Asia-Pacific region, as a part of the problem of setting up a comprehensive international security system, at the focus of attention of the meeting.

The problems of this vast region are close to the Soviet Union as an Asian and Pacific state. A.F. Dobrynin recalled that in his famous Vladivostok speech of July 1986, M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, put forward the conceptual basis and practical program for ensuring peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region by the joint efforts of all its countries. Based on recognition and understanding of the existing realities, this program proceeds from the long-term interests of peoples in the region and looks to the future. It is based on our universal approach to the principles of constructing international relations on the new thinking in the modern epoch.

Guided by the new thinking, and striving to have it understood and accepted by all of our partners in political dialogue, we intend to continue to put forward the concept of the integrated guarantee of peace and security in the Asia and Pacific region by the joint efforts of all states of the area. The development of the situation here reaffirms the topicality of the program of measures put forward in Vladivostok for the reduction of tension and the establishment of broad political dialogue aimed at strengthening peace and security.

In connection with this he drew attention to the fact that the process of militarization in the Asia-Pacific region is gathering dangerous pace. The responsibility for tension in the region lies primarily with the U.S. militarist circles. In accordance with the concept of neoglobalism, Washington is building up its nuclear weapons, the power of its naval fleets and of other parts of its armed forces here, and is setting the aim of consolidating the Asia-Pacific region in the system of its military bridgeheads stretching from Europe, across the Near East and Southeast Asia, right up to Japan and Oceania. Military-political partnership in the U.S.-Japan-South Korea triangle is being made more active. The second largest group of U.S. troops abroad, after Western Europe, is situated in the Pacific region.

Supporting Washington's global course, Japanese ruling circles are steadily strengthening the combat might of their own armed forces. On the whole, these joint military preparations are aimed not only against the socialist countries; the military bases on foreign territories in the countries of the Asia-Pacific region are also intended to impose on them the will of the imperialist multinational monoplies.

The monopolies gain vast profits. The profit margin there is twice that in the developed countries. With a Philippines foreign debt, for example, of $26 billion, that country has to pay virtually half of its export earnings toward interest payments.

Yet another aspect should not be omitted. Militarization often leads to enhancing the role of military circles in the political life of countries. This directly threatens that military dictatorships will be established, as has happened, for example, in South Korea. Also, the direction of the Pentagon's general course is causing concern.

At the same time, the secretary of the CPSU Central Committee pointed out that, of late, positive tendencies can be seen in the Asia-Pacific region. The urgent need to change the current dangerous course is being recognized more and more deeply here. The forces trying to put a barrier in the path of the proliferation of nuclear arms and demanding to give a peaceful and secure future to the peoples, one that would be free from threats, violence, and fear, are becoming more active. During the year that has passed since M.S. Gorbachev's speech in Vladivostok, the public of the Asia-Pacific region have been able to see specific facts once again that it is precisely the USSR that builds its policy taking into account both the interests of the Soviet people and those of strengthening peace in Asia and in the Pacific basin, and throughout the world as a whole.

Such specific actions of the Soviet Union as its course to implement major actions leading to a gradual elimination of the world's nuclear weapons, the prolonged unilateral moratorium on all nuclear explosions, practical steps to withdraw a number of military divisions from Mongolia and Afghanistan, the proposals for transfering the issue of measures of trust onto a practical place and its support for initiatives to set up nuclear-free zones in the Asia-Pacific region and the idea of converting the Indian Ocean into a peace zone have met with an attitude of interest from the majority of Asian states.

The head of the CPSU delegation stressed that the Soviet concept of peace and security in the Asian-Pacific region contains the principle of universality. This means that all countries of the region are invited to a dialogue, regardless of their sociopolitical structure and their foreign policy orientation. The Delhi declaration on the principles of a nonviolent world free of nuclear weapons is a convincing example of the fruitfulness of such an approach.

Citing relevant examples, the secretary of the CPSU Central Committee reaffirmed the support which our party and the Soviet Government invariably give to the peace initiatives of the socialist states of Asia and to the positive ideas which other countries of the region put forward. The Soviet Union will continue to conduct a political dialogue with states and public movements of the region, to develop and refine its initiatives, and to support positive initiatives coming from other states, both socialist and non-socialist, and from public organizations and individual figures.

We would like to work together with the PRC in the task of guaranteeing peace and security in Asia and the Pacific Ocean area. Noting the positive moves in relations between the USSR and PRC, he expressed the conviction that the further improvement of Soviet-Chinese relations will serve the strengthening of peace and stability in the region. Our conception of the strengthening of peace in the Asian-Pacific region presupposes, of course, drawing the United States and Japan into that process. The American and Japanese people would only gain from the establishment of an atmosphere of neighborliness and cooperation here.

The head of the CPSU delegation noted the considerable stepping up of ties between the USSR and various countries of the Asia-Pacific region in recent years, both at the level of states and at other levels. We are devoting great attention to the expansion of trade and economic, scientific and technological, and cultural cooperation with countries of the region, he said. A plan is being worked out for development of the Soviet Far East as a highly efficient national economic complex which is part of the system of the international division of labor. It was stressed that the Soviet Union advocates involving the Asian-Pacific region in the overall process of creating a comprehensive system of international security. As M.S. Gorbachev said at a meeting in May this year with Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Vietnamese Communist Party Central Committee, the efforts of the countries of the two continents of Europe and Asia in the direction of building regional systems of security, could merge into a unified Euro-Asiatic process which would provide a powerful stimulus for the creation of a comprehensive system of international security.

The speech then touched on the problems and tasks which require joint discussion in order to transform the concept of peace and disarmament into action by the broad masses of the people and by public organizations.

Going on to tell the participants in the meeting about the results of the CPSU Central Committee June Plenum and of the restructuring underway in the USSR, A.F. Dobrynin noted that the fundamental revolutionary changes taking place in the country are of immense significance not just for Soviet society but for socialism and the world as a whole. They open up new possibilities for the full uncovering and utilization of the advantages of the socialist system and provide additional arguments in favor of socialism as an alternative to capitalist society. Soviet people are thereby fulfilling their internationalist duty too. Understanding throughout the world is growing of the indissoluble link between the USSR's peaceloving foreign policy and its domestic policies and concentration on constructive work to improve the country. As a corollary, trust is reinforced in the world and support is growing for Soviet initiatives in the spheres of disarmament and international security.

The head of the CPSU delegation conveyed to the participants in the meeting comradely greetings and wishes for fruitful work in the interests of activating the struggle for peace, security, and goodneighborly cooperation in the Asian-Pacific region.

YAZOV MEETS WITH VIETNAMESE DELEGATION

PM291531 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 24 Jun 87 Second Edition p 3

[Unattributed report: "Conversation Held"]

[Text] Army General D.T. Yazov, USSR minister of defense, received on 23 June a delegation of Vietnamese political workers headed by Colonel General Nguyen Quyet, secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, deputy chairman of the SRV Council of State, SRV deputy minister of national defense, and chief of the Vietnamese People's Army Main Political Directorate, which is visiting the Soviet Union at the invitation of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate. A conversation was held on questions of mutual interest.

Army General A.D. Lizichev, chief of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate, took part in the conversation which proceeded in a warm cordial atmosphere.

SRV Ambassador to the USSR Nguyen Manh Cam was also at the meeting.

PRK SPOKESMAN DENOUNCES U.S., THAI 'PROVOCATIONS'

LD291233 Moscow TASS in English 1145 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Text] Phnom Penh June 29 TASS -- A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of the People's Republic of Kampuchea has strongly denounced the heightening of anti-Kampuchean sentiments in Thailand.

In a statement, distributed here today, he observed that the latest provocative remarks made by Thai officials coincided with the visit of U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger.

Unjustified accusations of border violations against the Kampuchean Army and Vietnamese volunteer units were immediately used by the Pentagon chief as a pretext for calls for greater military aid to Thailand.

The Kampuchean Foreign Ministry spokesman pointed out that the Government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea fully rejected these groundless charges and demanded an end to provocations and direct acts of aggression against Kampuchea.

The policy of Thailand and the U.S. was heightening tensions in the region. All responsibility for the consequences of the militarist course would rest with those who inspired it, emphasized the ministry spokesman.

PYADYSHEV CONFIRMS PLANE LANDED IN IRAN

LD091317 Moscow TASS in English 1311 GMT 9 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow July 9 TASS -- A Soviet transport aircraft with passengers on board made an unpremeditated landing on the territory of Iran on Tuesday after losing its bearings in unfavorable weather conditions, Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Boris Pyadyshev told a briefing held at the USSR Foreign Ministry Press Centre today.

He said the Iranian side received an apology over the incident along with a request for the return of the crew, passengers and the aircraft itself.

KUWAITI PAPER CARRIES OFFICIAL'S COMMENTS ON GULF

JN070715 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 7 Jul 87 p 1

[By Salam Musafri]

[Text] Moscow -- Aleksandr Ivanov-Galitsin, an official in the USSR Foreign Ministry's Near Eastern and Northern African Countries Administration, has described the leasing to Kuwait of three Soviet oil tankers as a purely commercial deal that dictated the dispatch of Soviet naval units to the Gulf to offer escort to these tankers as a protective measure. In an interview with AL-ANBA' the Soviet official said that Moscow finds no basis for Iran's claims that Kuwait provides military help to Iraq. Ivanov-Galitsin described Kuwait's policy toward the Gulf war as a constructive, balanced, and wise policy. He said that Kuwait can play an important role in ending the war as its proposals in this respect are wise and positive.

The Soviet official reaffirmed that the Soviet Union will continue its political, military, and economic support for Iraq and described the talks Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi deputy prime minister, held in Moscow at the end of last week as successful and that they have reaffirmed that relations between Moscow and Baghdad are based on solid and firm bases.

On the results of last month's visit to Tehran by Yuliy Vorontsov, Soviet first deputy foreign minister, Ivanov-Galitsin said that his country is satisfied by, what he called, Iran's readiness to hold a dialogue on many issues concerning the Gulf, including the Iraq-Iran war. He added: We sensed a marked improvement in the Iranian stand toward relations with us. He said: I believe that the Iranian officials understand the necessity to seek political solutions to the conflict with Iraq. In this respect, the Soviet official said that the USSR does not separate the question of safe and free navigation in the Gulf from that of the Iraq-Iran war. He said the Soviet Union proposes that the two issues should be dealt with at one level and that the United Nations must quickly adopt a resolution to end the war between Iraq and Iran.

Ivanov-Galitsin described U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Ricahrd Murphy's recent statements on not allowing a Soviet presence in the Gulf region as strange statements. He said: We recognize that the United States has interests in the Gulf as was affirmed by Mikhail Gorbachev during his meeting with the UN secretary general. He added: We wonder why the United States does not recognize that there are USSR interests in this region. Ivanov-Galitsin described these interests as being political, economic, and trade interests in addition to those related to the Soviet Union's national security. He said: We would like to affirm that this region is very important to us because it is near our southern borders.

In reply to an AL-ANBA' question on the Soviet stand toward White House Chief of Staff Howard Baker's declaration that Washington will reconsider its military presence in the Gulf if the Soviets withdraw their naval units from it, the Soviet official said that these proposals are not new and that the Soviet Union, in its statement on 4 June, proposed the simultaneous withdrawal from the region of all warships belonging to the big powers. Ivanov-Galitsin said the Soviet Union is ready to carry out such a step immediately if the United States agrees to the simultaneous withdrawal.

Ivanov-Galitsin noted that Soviet military presence in the Gulf region is much less than the U.S. presence.

IZVESTIYA CITES PYADYSHEV ON GULF SITUATION

PM081517 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Jul 87 Morning Edition p 5

[Own correspondent A. Kuvshinnikov report: "Chance of Settlement; From Our Correspondent at the USSR Foreign Ministry Press Center"]

[Text] The development of the situation in the Persian Gulf region has turned it into the hottest spot in the world. The situation is fraught with unpredictable consequences.

This topic was the central theme at a routine briefing for Soviet and foreign journalists at the USSR Foreign Ministry Press Center in Moscow. B. Pyadyshev, first deputy chief of the USSR Foreign Ministry Information Administration, who conducted the briefing, stressed and has been drawing attention to White House Chief of Staff Howard Baker's statement that under certain conditions the United States is prepared to review the situation in the Persian Gulf in the context of [v plane] reducing the U.S. naval presence there.

The Soviet Government, as is well known, has already proposed that all warships belonging to states not part of the Persian Gulf region be withdrawn from Gulf waters as soon as possible -- on the understanding that resolute measures will be taken to end the military conflict between Iran and Iraq. If Baker's aforesaid statement marks a generally positive attitude to our proposal, then, the Foreign Ministry spokesman stressed, we welcome the statement as a step in the right direction. One gets the impression that the United States is weighing the possibility of going along with us down the route we have proposed.

"How many Soviet warships are in the Persian Gulf region and is the Soviet Union ready to set an example by being the first to withdraw its warships from the Gulf?" a NEWSWEEK correspondent asked for clarification.

"Would it not be fairer and more logical if the United States, which was the first to send its warships into the Persian Gulf, was the first to withdraw them too?" B. Pyadyshev remarked in response. He noted that as of last Saturday we had three minesweepers actually in the Persian Gulf engaged exclusively in escorting merchant ships. Furthermore, we also have a frigate there, intended to safequard the security of Soviet merchant ships. A communications flagship [shtabnoy svyaznoy korabl] has been cruising in a zone near the Persian Gulf. It is a drop in the ocean compared to the U.S. naval armada currently assembled in the Gulf region, the Foreign Ministry spokesman stressed. As soon as the U.S. ships are withdrawn along with the French and British vessels -- their presence should not be forgotten -- the Soviet Union will undoubtedly join in these steps.

The Western journalists' interest in the fate of the West German pilot Mathias Rust is undiminished. Speculating on the official visit to the USSR by FRG Federal President R. von Weiszaecker, the mass media in that country have hinted that the guest of the USSR might appeal for the young adventurer to be released. In response to questions from correspondents of West Germany's DPA new agency and ABC-TV of the United States it was stated that any attempts to put pressure on the progress of the investigation are unacceptable. If some people want to turn the Rust affair into an indicator of the success or failure of the FRG president's visit, this is at the very least frivolous. Such an attempt to divert attention clearly does no service either to the visit or to Soviet-West German relations as a whole.

SHABAYEV CITES 'ADVENTURISTIC' U.S. GULF POLICY

LD031846 Moscow TASS in English 1733 GMT 3 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow July 3 TASS -- TASS political news analyst Boris Shabayev writes:

Conducting an adventuristic policy with regard to the Persian Gulf, the U.S. Administration landed in a difficult situation. U.S. Congressmen and even many high-ranking officers of the U.S. forces talk with concern about dangerous and unpredictable consequences of this policy, as THE NEW YORK TIMES testifies. The United States allies are not eager to share the "burden of responsibility" in the Gulf with Washington.

Washington looks for a way out of this situation along the well-trodden road of trying to intimidate everyone with the "Soviet menace." Now the Pentagon's chief talks about prospects of the Persian Gulf being turned into a "Soviet lake," now U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy tries to ascribe to the Soviet Union the striving "to widen its influence" in the area.

Meanwhile it is precisely the United States that tries to establish its military and political domination over the Persian Gulf are in any way at all, by proclaiming the area the zone of "its vital interests." This is clearly proved by each new day of the investigation of the Irangate scandal.

Making secret deliveries of armaments to Iran, in violation of its own laws, Washington was pouring oil into the flame of the Iran-Iraq conflict in order to use it for the justification of the United States amassed military presence in the Persian Gulf. The "Irangate" operation also included preparation of a coup in Iran. For this purpose, as THE NEW YORK TIMES reports, there were secret contacts with right-wing groups of "dissidents" in Iran who needed Western aid to seize power.

Staffer of the United States National Security Council Michael Ledin who set the beginning to these "contacts" back in 1985 unambiguously summed up their purpose as stimulation of discontent in Iran.

For more than one year, the Pentagon has been pressing for access to military facilities and bases on the territories of Persian Gulf countries, has been holding large-scale military exercises in the area and keeping a large naval armada in the Gulf and close to it. Appraising the United States neoglobalist claims, the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN writes that Washington wishes to bring tension in the Persian Gulf to the boiling point so that under the pretext of the protection of coastal states to establish its military control over the region. So as regards a real, not a mythical menace to the Persian Gulf area, there is a danger of its being turned into an "American lake."

Proceeding from a realistic assessment of the situation it is realized in the Soviet Union that the USA and other Western countries have interests in the Persian Gulf area. In the quest of the ways to settle the crisis it is necessary to take a realistic view of the world, to discard outdated principles and standards, to review the former foreign policy concepts to bring them into accord with new realities, otherwise the policy will be doomed to take dangerous unpredictable turns.

TWO MEMBERS OF DELEGATION TO ISRAEL NAMED

TA191153 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 19 Jun 87 p 4

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Excerpt] Israel will closely supervise the Soviet consular delegation throughout its visit. The Foreign Ministry will appoint a special liaison to assist the Soviet delegation on its official mission -- that of checking Soviet property in Israel.

The delegation is expected to arrive shortly, presumably early next month. The delegation will be headed by Yevgeniy Antipov, a Soviet diplomat. The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem does not have any detailed information about the man, but it seems he specializes in Middle Eastern affairs.

The Soviet delegation will also include people who participated in the Helsinki talks, led by (Pavlov Plakhin), the head of the Soviet foreign service's consular branch.

Political sources in Jerusalem believe the Soviet delegation will be following instructions from Moscow closely and that although it will hold a consular visit, it may also send out feelers on political matters.

PETROVSKIY DISCUSSES INTERNATIONAL SECURITY IN SOFIA

LD081940 Moscow TASS in English 1806 GMT 8 Jul 87

[Text] Sofia July 8 TASS -- Socialist countries are submitting for the consideration of the U.N. a proposal on the creation of a comprehensive system of international peace and security. They regard it as a major step on the way to the creation of a nuclear-free and non-violent world, to the overcoming of the existing notions of strength and confrontation as a basis of countries' security.

This was emphasized at a press conference held here today in connection with a conference of deputy foreign ministers of socialist countries on questions connected with the coming 42nd session of the U.N. General Assembly. The conference is under way in the Bulgarian capital.

Vladimir Petrovskiy, deputy minister of foreign affairs of the USSR, who spoke at the press conference pointed out that the essence of the comprehensive security system consisted in the fact that it should be ensured by political means and by the efforts of all. The U.N. to which socialist countries submit this proposal is the very organization that has the needed political instruments for the settlement of existing problems and at the same time gives an opportunity to all the countries to make their contribution to the working out of a concept of universal security.

The concept proposed by socialist countries is a sort of a draft policy of real actions in all the spheres of international relations and primarily those which are connected with the termination of the nuclear arms race and the prevention of its spreading to space. This is why socialist countries are signalling the whole of the world community throughout the U.N. their readiness for practical actions in all the spheres, Petrovskiy said.

He emphasized that the document "on military doctrine of Warsaw Treaty member countries" adopted by the Berlin meeting of the Political Consultative Committee contains provisions that are entirely new in world practice. It is a concrete manifestation of a new political thinking. The Warsaw Treaty member countries propose to compare military doctrines of the two military-political alliances and to discuss questions connected with a lack of symmetry and disbalance in conventional armaments and armed forces.

An early response of NATO to those proposals would undoubtedly promote the transfer of the solution of the problem to a sphere of practical actions, which, in its turn, would help create a solid foundation of a comprehensive system of security in the military sphere.

Socialist countries propose concrete actions. They include a military doctrine and a readiness to start talks on a radical reduction of conventional armaments and armed forces in Europe. However, there has been no response to these signals from the other side. We are especially concerned over a deficit of a policy of concrete actions observed in the West. A comprehensive system of international security can be created only by joint efforts. Sooner or later it should replace nuclear deterrence. The U.N. and its numerous specialized bodies should become the main guarantor of it. The guarantors should also include an international agency for a peaceful use of nuclear energy, Petrovskiy said.

GORBACHEV LETTER DELIVERED TO PAPANDREOU

NC041709 Athens TO PONDIKI in Greek 3 Jul 87 p 12

["Text" of undated letter from Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee to Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou delivered to him by Mikhail Solomentsev, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, on 14 May, in Athens]

[Text] To Mr Andreas Papandreou, Athens: Our correspondence has become a pleasant and good tradition for me. I now again take advantage of this opportunity to write to you in order to draw your attention to the serious issues of international relations and the development of bilateral relations.

First of all, I would once again like to thank you for the cordial invitation to visit Athens, and to get acquainted with contemporary life and Greece's glorious historic sights. My own sincere wish is to carry out such a visit as soon as possible, but my great preoccupation with domestic affairs does not permit me to fix a specific date for such a trip for the time being. I hope this can be arranged in the not too distant future.

I can only express satisfaction over the steadfastly improving course of Soviet-Greek cooperation in many sectors, especially the improved mutual understanding in the political sphere. The profound trust that has been cultivated between our countries, the proximity and similarity of views regarding the most important contemporary problems, the regular contacts and rich dialogue -- all these constitute indisputable proof of the stability and vitality of our people's traditional friendship that has existed for many centuries.

In our opinion, Soviet-Greek relations at the current stage are an excellent example of a wise, sober approach by the two parties to international relations, which is a result of our realization of the indivisibility of human interests, the priority these have in the contemporary world, which is full of contrasts and clashes but is simultaneously interdependent and interlinked. Our two countries base their foreign policy upon the recognition and consideration of the current international reality and have as a starting point the new political way of thinking that acknowledges man's supreme right -- the right to life, the right of people to independent, peaceful development.

We are ready now, and in the future as well, to maintain and preserve the favorable atmosphere of good will and frankness that has characterized our relations the past few years.

Frankness demands that we unfortunately declare that we are not succeeding in guaranteeing a desirable progress in all fields. The temporary decrease in our commercial-economic cooperation, that was perceptible last year, has caused justified concern. We believe that our common duty in this sphere of Soviet-Greek relations is to seek the steadfast development of our relations. Apparently this goal is realistic and feasible only as long as it is achieved through the realization of new, progressive forms of broad productive cooperation, including the establishment of joint enterprises and scientific-technical cooperation in the most varied directions such as heavy and light industry, agrarian economy, and merchant marine. We view as an important step in this direction the agreement that has been concluded for the construction of an alumina plant in Greece with Soviet help.

It also appears that sufficient scope exists for developing cultural and scientific links between our peoples, who have contributed so much to the treasury of world civilization.

In view of the regular nature of Soviet-Greek contacts in the political field, I will not undertake here an analysis of our approaches to the problems of preserving and consolidating peace and achieving substantive progress in the cause of disarmament, which especially interests both countries in their activities in the international arena. For this reason I would only like to draw your attention to some general evaluations connected with the situation that has emerged in this sphere in recent weeks. We must ascertain the following: The more we show good will in seeking a mutually beneficial compromise with our Western partners acting in the name of the salvation of the human race, of all our civilization from the horror of nuclear holocaust, the more radical our steps in the direction of the West's positions in the disarmament field, the greater the confusion we witness in the United States and certain West European countries. You can judge for yourself. Of course, you know that we have made great concessions on the issue of nuclear means in Europe; we agreed, with regard to the package presented in Reykjavik, to study the problem of medium-range missiles without counting U.S. nuclear tactical means stationed at bases in Europe and without, at this stage, counting the comparatively great British and French nuclear forces. However, as soon as we did this, people were immediately found in the West who began to raise new obstacles and reservations on the road of substantive movement toward disarmament. The Soviet Union maintained a constructive and flexible position proposing that simultaneous with the conclusion of a separate agreement for the elimination of Soviet and U.S. medium-range missiles in Europe, an agreement be concluded calling for the total elimination of operational-tactical missiles within a short period. In the event a general agreement were reached, we could abolish our tactical field missiles. However, instead of this, the United States imposes upon us "additional arms," and the "rearmament" of their current medium-range missiles.

The United States and NATO are backtracking from their own proposals, which they made recently, as soon as we set forth similar initiatives. An impression is created that they want to play an unethical game with us; namely, with words they declare the goal of disarmament, the reduction of nuclear weapons, while in practice try by all means to impede every substantive development in this field. I believe we should all manifest a spirit of cooperation, a readiness to take steps toward the other side with regard to the vital issue of preserving peace and promoting disarmament.

In our opinion, there has been a substantive increase in the current situation in the role and significance of those progressive forces of the international community which have shown in practice a desire to overcome old approaches based upon the concept of "the balance of terror," of "nuclear deterrence," whose inclusion in the political dictionary of humanity is tantamount to a slide toward nuclear self-destruction.

The well-known group of the leaders of six countries from Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America, who have repeatedly expressed important initiatives in support of peace and disarmament that have met with a response in many countries, including the Soviet Union, enjoys justifiable prestige and respect among those fighters for a world without nuclear weapons, without wars and violence.

Mr Andreas Papandreou, with this opportunity I would like to express to you our gratitude for your inestimable contribution to and constant development of the "initiative of the Six." We hope that in the current situation, which demands from all of us responsible decisions and actions, the "group of the Six" will again raise its voice to rid earth of the cancerous growth of nuclear arms so that space may remain peaceful and clean, so that nuclear sickness may not penetrate it. For our part, we are prepared to listen carefully to your proposals and hold the necessary meetings to study them with the participation of U.S. representatives. We are ready to send only Soviet representatives in case the Americans do not accept.

We specifically appreciate the fact that, regardless of the others, Greece is taking action to rid specific areas from nuclear weapons and is taking specific steps in this direction; is sharing the notion of the establishment of a nuclear-free and chemical-free zone in the Balkans; and is seeking to remove foreign nuclear arms from depots on national Greek territory. It is notable that Greece and you personally, Mr Andreas Papandreou, both within the framework of the "initiative of the Six" and independently, are displaying a broadness of perspective and a desire for cooperation regardless of the political and ideological position of your partners in the talks.

In the course of reducing the level of military confrontation between the existing blocs, we regard as significant the adoption of measures that would decrease or, even more desirous, completely eliminate, the threat of a surprise attack. The foreign military presence on the territory of other countries, which we propose should be renounced everywhere, is extremely important within this framework. We know that this is a currnet issue for Greece as well. We are aware that you are seeking the removal of military bases from Greek territory following the expiration of the relevant agreement. We share your view that these bases, according to the Greek people's unanimous demand, should be removed from the country.

We believe that appeals for a reduction and, in the final analysis, a rejection of any military presence outside national frontiers concern us, too. The Soviet Union is already taking the first steps: our military units are withdrawing from the Republic of Mongolia and we are getting ready to withdraw from Afghanistan. Naturally, a withdrawal from the latter country must take into consideration how the issue of the termination of the imperialist intervention in the internal affairs of the suffering country will be settled.

In case there is a delay in achieving an agreement for the withdrawal of foreign military bases one could, at the present time, and in the name of lessening the war danger, solve the issue of entry to the bases for inspection so that one could be certain that no activity prohibited within the framework of one or another international agreement is taking place in them. Naturally, this cannot be realized without the permission and cooperation of those states upon whose land the bases exist. It is to be understood that such a complex issue requires additional detailed discussion.

Mr Papandreou, in you and your government, we see a man with ideas similar to ours regarding the problem of transforming the Mediterranean into a zone of peace, security, and cooperation, free of nuclear weapons and the presence of foreign armed forces. Constructive international dialogue is the best means to break the deadlock in the existing intricate and neglected problems of that area. Therefore, let us work jointly to create a new concept in the Mediterranean area of interdependence, of a community of interests, something that will contribute to the search for solutions to the current difficult Mediterranean problems and to surmounting local disputes upon the basis of the principles acceptable to the Mediterranean countries and to the entire international community. Specific progress in this field, the extension in the Mediterranean area of effective control measures, a reduction in the tension that currently paralyzes the activities of Mediterranean countries, will create the necessary prerequisites for convening a broad conference for security and cooperation in that area.

Concluding, in the expectation of my next meeting with you, I would like once again to stress the Soviet Union's readiness to deepen dialogue and cooperation with Greece on the most critical problems of the international situation and to forge a common agreement on these issues, something that will contribute to easing international tension and promoting peace and security. Mr Andreas Papandreou, I assure you of our desire to develop and perfect Soviet-Greek relations upon the basis of equality and mutual benefit.

RYZHKOV, VRANITZKY DISCUSS RELATIONS, COOPERATION

LD081918 Moscow TASS in English 1803 GMT 8 Jul 87

[Text] Vienna July 8 TASS -- TASS special correspondents Anatoliy Tyupayev and Vitaliy Chukseyev reporting:

Nikolay Ryzhkov, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R., and Ranz Vranitzky, federal chancellor of Austria, opened talks here today.

In an atmosphere of well-wishing and frankness which is characteristic of relations between the two countries they discussed in detail the state of and prospects for Soviet-Austrian cooperation in various fields and a broad range of issues of the current international situation.

The chairman of the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R., and the federal chancellor of Austria expressed satisfaction with the existing level of development of relations between the two countries based on true, equality, mutual respect and account of the interests of each other.

The sides came out in favor of the further expansion and in-depth development of Soviet-Austrian cooperation which came in line with the long-term vital interests of the U.S.S.R. and Austria and promoted the cause of stronger peace and European security.

Nikolay Ryzhkov and Franz Vranitzky stated that it was desirable that such promising forms of economic, scientific and technical cooperation, as co-production and joint research in the scientific and technological fields, specialization and exchange of licences be put to use more vigorously.

The sides considered possibilities for the establishment of joint-venture enterprises as a new guideline in the development of bilateral economic ties.

While considering urgent international problems, the sides were unanimous in the opinion that the current difficult international situation required responsible actions of all states -- actions that would promote an improvement of international relations, stronger peace, buildup of trust and better mutual understanding among nations.

The parties to the talks stated that in the nuclear and space age it was important to terminate the arms race on earth and prevent it in space, to achieve as quickly as possible specific and positive results at the current bilateral and multilateral talks on the limitation and reduction of armaments to the level of reasonable sufficiency.

Franz Vranitzky said that Austria approved of the peaceful orientation of the Soviet Union's foreign policy, specifically, the Soviet proposal for the abolition of the Soviet and American medium-range and shorter-range missiles in Europe, and expressed the hope that the Geneva talks on that issue would be completed successfully.

The parties to the talks expressed the readiness of their countries to continue promoting the CSCE process as an important factor enhancing security, stability and cooperation in Europe.

Meeting With Parliamentarians

LD090745 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0715 GMT 9 Jul 87

[Text] Vienna, 9 Jul (TASS) -- TASS special correspondent. Nikolay Ryzhkov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, who is here on an official visit at the invitation of Franz Vranitzky, federal chancellor, and the government of the Austrian Republic, today visited Austria's National Council (Parliament).

The head of the Soviet Government was greeted by Leopold Gratz, president of the National Council, and by other leaders of the highest legislative organ.

A conversation took place, in which members of the presidia of the national and federal councils took part, as well as chairman of the parliamentary factions and chairman and deputy chairmen of the foreign policy committees of both legislative organs.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON FRG PRESIDENT'S VISIT

'Positive Assessment' of Talks

LD081418 Hamburg DPA in German 1333 GMT 8 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow, 8 Jul (DPA) -- Federal President Richard von Weizsaecker has given a generally positive assessment of the political aspect of his state visit. The Federal president stated to the international press that the tasks of the visit have been achieved although it has "not been easy." After all there are still "sensitive areas because our relations with the USSR are quite different to those with other European countries."

The talks were to open a new chapter and to put German-Soviet relations on a broad and long-term basis as well as to create a good starting point for further contacts.

On the repeated invitation to General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev to visit Bonn Von Weizsaecker said that a firm date has not been set. He also cannot say whether the visit will take place in the next 12 months. He just wanted to say that the "foreseeable future" is being contemplated.

Von Weizsaecker declined to answer questions on further developments in the Rust case since this will not help the case.

Cooperation Discussed

LD081622 Hamburg DPA in German 1417 GMT 8 Jul 87

[Excerpts] Moscow, 8 Jul (DPA) -- Federal President Richard Von Weizsaecker and Soviet party leader Mikhail Gorbachev both have assessed future prospects for German-Soviet relations positively.

Von Weizsaecker told the international press today that the tasks of his visit had been accomplished, even though "that is not easy." [passage omitted]. Among the positive expectations the Federal president numbered the potential for scientific and economic cooperation, in which Bonn was already the largest partner among the European states. In both areas there had been "honest and open" discussion, without bothering with superficialities.

Von Weizsaecker also said that the Federal Republic was grateful for the strong increase in the number of Soviet citizens of German ethnic origin that had been allowed to leave recently. During his visit, Moscow had assured him that "this will remain the case."

The Federal president gave little detail about the other spheres. In scientific exchange the readiness was great, but the volume achieved to date was small. "The Soviet Union reacted "extremely positively" to his idea of management training. Unfortunately, it was still not clear how this would be put into practice. There were also still obstacles with regard to the economy, and here, too, it was a matter of implementing their own internal reforms. [passage omitted] Federal Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, who had a second meeting with his Soviet counterpart, Edward Shevardnadze, confirmed the "very clear interest of the Soviet leaders in an expansion of relations." He also stressed the Federal republic's NATO membership and the close Franco-German cooperation as being "European reality."

With regard to the party paper PRAVDA's heavily abridged version of his speech, Von Weizsaecker said that he saw it as a "positive sign" that there had already been discussions in the Soviet Union on the usefulness of the omissions.

Up to this evening the circumstances of a planned meeting between Von Weizsaecker and Soviet civil rights activists and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Andrey Sakharov were still unclear.

Meets With Sakharov

LD081902 Hamburg DPA in German 1815 GMT 8 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow, 8 Jul (DPA) -- Federal President Richard von Weizsaecker had a meeting with Soviet civil rights activist and Nobel Peace Prize holder Andrey Sakharov at the residence of the German ambassador to Moscow this evening. Sakharov came to the ambassadr's villa in the Vorovskaya Street with his wife, Yelena Bonner. After they had been welcomed, Von Weizsaecker and Sakharov withdrew for a talk, in which Federal Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher also took part.

It was learned from delegation sources that the Federal president was very pleased that the meeting had been possible. However, he did not want to make any comment on the content of the talk. During a short photo session for journalists Sakharov also did not comment.

Earlier, the Federal president attended a concert at the Moscow Conservatory with Soviet head of state Andrey Gromyko. The Soviet Radio and Television Symphony Orchestra played works by Beethoven, Weber, and Tchaikovsky, among others.

FRANCE, FRG BEGIN MILITARY COOPERATION SEMINAR

LD071034 Moscow TASS in English 0852 GMT 7 Jul 87

[Text] Paris July 7 TASS -- The first seminar of officers of the French Army and the Bundeswehr which opened at a Paris military school today, is evidence of growing military cooperation between the FRG and France. It is attended by representatives of the three arms of the two armies, as well as of the Gendarmerie. They will discuss for a week the issue of changes in society and their influence on the military policy of France and the FRG. Starting with the present year, such seminars will be held regularly.

FRANCE'S GIRAUD ON 'CRUSADE AGAINST DISARMAMENT'

PM081127 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 8 Jul 87 First Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Opposing Disarmament"]

[Text] Paris, 7 Jul -- French Defense Minister Giraud is conducting a veritable "crusade" against...disarmament. Against all normal logic the minister regards disarmament rather than the arms race or the inexorable buildup of nuclear arsenals as the source of the most dreadful calamities. The world is threatened by disarmament, no less -- this is the main theoretical proposition of a speech which he delivered Monday at the Paris Military Academy during the inauguration of the first seminar for officers of the French Army and the West German Bundeswehr.

The minister deemed it necessary, once again, to warn against the Soviet peace proposals which have, on his own admission, evoked a widespread public response in the West. These proposals, he emphasized, must not make us forget the true aim. This aim, if one is to believe Giraud, is to "strengthen peace." However, the minister did not take the trouble, or was simply unable, to explain how disarmament can harm peace while the arms race can help to "strengthen" it. He merely engaged in convoluted arguments to the effect "any disarmament measure is good if it decreases the risk of war, rather than increasing it. Disarmament does not equal peace. It is called upon to lead to a strengthening of peace, rather than the opposite. Disarmament must not threaten peace."

The French minister needed these complicated speculative arguments in order to justify the process of the strengthening of the Paris-Bonn military axis which has clearly been revitalized of late. According to his claims, it was the Soviet-U.S. talks on disarmament questions which has shown France and the FRG how close their "solidarity" must be. Franco-West German military cooperation, he said, must develop not in opposition to the North Atlantic alliance but within its framework. We must "persuade our American friends that the best way to protect the free world is to maintain the presence of their conventional and nuclear forces in Europe." Giraud called on the Warsaw Pact member states to unilaterally reduce their arms.

He also invited the USSR and the United States to embark on talks on the reduction of the strategic potential, failing to mention that this is what the Soviet Union has been proposing for a long time and that only the Washington administration's stubborn unwillingness to give up its dangerous plans for the militarization of speech has so far ruled out substantial steps in this direction.

The minister noted that the operational cooperation between the French Armed Forces and the West German Bundeswehr will undergo a practical test in the course of the joint military exercises code-named "Kecker Spatz" (Cheeky Sparrow) in September of this year.

U.S. 'INTERVENTIONIST POLICY' IN PANAMA DECRIED

PM081805 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 4 Jul 87 Second Edition p 5

[Vadim Listov "Commentator's Column": "'Jupiter' Is Angry..."]

[Text] A new hotbed of international tension has appeared in Central America -- this time Washington has encroached on Panamanian sovereignty.

The acute nature of the conflict can be judged by the fact that the Panamanian Foreign Ministry, having recalled its ambassador from Washington for "urgent consultations," has sent the U.S. State Department, and all the governments of the world, a note protesting U.S. interference in the country's internal affairs. At the same time, the Panamanian legislative assembly accused U.S. Ambassador Davis of spying and organizing a plot against the government and declared him "persona non grata."

The current conflict was sparked off by a U.S. Senate resolution adopted last week which is an ultimatum demanding the removal of a number of Panamanian military leaders, the ending of the state of emergency, and the holding of "democratic elections." The document combined brazenness with blackmail and threats.

Washington has substantial grounds, in its view, of course, for being unhappy with Panama and its policy, in particular its foreign policy. Suffice it to say that Panama is actively involved in the Contadora process and is in favor of a peaceful settlement of the crisis situation in Central America which is due to the undeclared U.S. war against Nicaragua and Washington's interference in the internal affairs of other countries in the region.

But perhaps there is something else that worries Washington even more. With each passing year, the period that remains before the reestablishment of complete Panamanian sovereignty over the Canal Zone -- due to take place on 31 December 1999 -- shrinks inexorably, like the wild ass' skin. And with each passing year, Washington behaves more and more aggressively in its search for ways and means of wrecking the fulfillment of the commitments it has made and revising the treaties in order to retain control of the canal and its military bases in the zone.

Then, as ill luck would have it (from the U.S. viewpoint, that is) the action by the right-wing opposition, attempting to organize a campaign of "civil disobedience" and destabilize the situation in Panama, failed. The national defense forces' exposure and elimination of the antigovernment plot was a blow to Washington's neocolonialist designs.

"Jupiter, you are angry, which means you are wrong," the old adage goes. Washington is visibly and clamorously "angry." Abuse and threats are being hurled at Panama from Capitol Hill. Administration officials are zealously defending their "right" to interfere in others' internal affairs. But events in Central America and other parts of the world show that the United States can no longer rule the destinies of other peoples. This is confirmed, in particular, by the fact that the OAS Permanent Council has just approved by an overwhelming majority a resolution effectively condemning U.S. interventionist policy in respect of Panama.

ARTICLE ON REPERCUSSIONS OF U.S. 'WAR' ON NICARAGUA

PM011537 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Jun 87 Morning Edition p 5

[Yevgeniy Bay dispatch under the rubric "From the Nicaraguan Notebook": "Opposition"]

[Excerpt] Managua-Moscow -- [Passage omitted] The war has cost 42,000 Nicaraguan lives over the years. Young guys die in the wild, wooded mountains of the north, infiltrated by gangs of contras from Honduras. This also happens in the inaccessible rain forest in the south, where they have to trail mercenary detachments knocked together in Costa Rica. The "war zone" in reality embraces two-thirds of the Republic's territory: The only exception is the quiet Pacific strip, where the capital and the country's other large cities are located: Rivas, Granada, Leon, and Chinandega. But the battle is also being waged here -- against another no less insidious enemy trying to undermine the revolution from within.

During a recent visit to Nicaragua, my attention was arrested by the fact that the majority of the stalls at the large central market in Managua are empty. There is no rice, meat, poultry, or eggs. The price of tomatoes and potatoes has gone up several times in the last year.

Nicaragua's economic situation deteriorated particularly sharply the second half of last year. Last year the state budget deficit amounted to 80 billion cordobas; the inflation level exceeded 700 percent.

The naked eye can see how hard it is for the country. Nearly half the national budget is spent on defense. But the very acute shortage of resources is seen everywhere -- in the ramshackle roads, the ruins in the city, the relics of the 1972 earthquake, and the wretched wooden huts in the poorer quarters huddled on the edges of the numerous vacant lots.

Before it had time to shovel away even part of the difficult legacy left by the Somoza dictatorship, the Republic ran into very difficult problems caused by the U.S. economic blockade. "All these lamps in my office are U.S.-produced," the director of one of Managua's enterprises told me. "If they go out, I'll be in darkness, because there aren't any others." U.S. cars break down, and there are no spare parts; U.S. raw materials for pharmaceutical requirements have stopped coming, and dozens of drug stores have closed.

The country's currency supplies have been drained to the limit. Its exports of agricultural crops are constantly declining, disrupted by the mercenaries actions. But at the same time -- and all my Nicaraguan interlocutors admitted this -- the crisis is being exacerbated by bad management.

"We have learned to defend ourselves, we have learned to resist aggression, but sometimes it is incredibly difficult for us to resolve the tasks of peaceful life," Omar Cabezas, one of the leaders of the Nicaraguan Ministry of the Interior, admitted to me. "The economy is the country's main problem. Even if we make the fantastic assumption that economic growth will reach 5 percent as in 1983, we still won't get out of the crisis. The difficulties caused by the war, underdevelopment, and dependence on the foreign market are being intensified by parasitism, speculation, and swindling. In Nicaragua, which is currently experiencing a most acute shortage of goods, there are thousands of ways of speculating. We imprison the ringleaders, but on the whole it is very difficult to put an end to this disgraceful phenomenon."

I did not expect declarations from my interlocutor. The conversation was very frank; beginning late in the evening, it lasted until morning. [paragraph omitted]

Omar Cabezas, a brigadier general, participant in the rebel movement, and well-known writer, gave his personal assessment of what is happening in the country. "The struggle is being waged on several fronts," he repeated, "against the contras, against the CIA, against saboteurs and speculators, and against the so-called democratic opposition, which after the mercenaries' failures has become a support for the United States in underming the Sandinists' positions within the country."

I managed to talk with one of the representatives of this "opposition" -- Eduardo Molina, secretary of the Nicaraguan Democratic Conservative Party and member of parliament. It is curious that in the past, Nicaraguan bourgeois figures have flatly refused to talk to Soviet journalists.

"Everything the Sandinists touch immediately goes up in flames," the conservatives' representative said. "Individual rights are suppressed. There are many dissatisfied people in the country. The private sector doesn't trust the government because of cases where property has been confiscated for political motives."

Yes, my interlocutor is prepared to admit that the economic crisis is largely due to the aggression. But he gives a supremely original explanation for it. In his opinion, the Sandinists are not interested in peace. Because of the war and the state of emergency they are allegedly seeking ways to repress the population.

I had repeated opportunities to witness the vicious squabbles which take place in the Nicaraguan National Assembly, and how the opposition lowers itself to the level of vulgar abuse, criticizing the government not only for failings in the economy, but also for its foreign policy, which pursues only one goal -- to achieve peace for the tormented country -- and even criticizing its social policy, which has resulted in indisputable successes in the sphere of public health and education.

It is precisely there in the parliamentary galleries that I witnessed the opposition between the forces of progress and reaction around the proclamation of a constitution for the Republic. It proved difficult to get the draft fundamental law ratified in parliament. The Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] had to literally withstand a real battle on each article.

The plot by the right of center parties failed. The draft fundamental law, which working people had been actively supporting, was passed by an overwhelming majority. It will enable the FSLN to resolutely stop, from now on, all attempts at anticonstitutional, and antistate activity and simultaneously to strengthen national unity in the country. This is an important, hopeful event.

Important changes have also been planned in the economic sphere. This year the articles of the budget devoted to maintaining the state apparatus have been considerably reduced. The country is reorganizing the supply system so that provisions get primarily to Sandinist People's Army servicemen and workers engaged in production. At the beginning of June, the Nicaraguan Government raised wages for the main categories of urban and rural working people by 30 percent. At the same time the country brought into effect new economic measures designed to save fuel and reduce the balance of payments deficit. In addition, recently newspapers reported that large-scale operations to stop speculative trade have been carried out in Managua and other large cities in the Republic. Nicaraguans have been waiting for such decisive steps for a long time.

The resistance to external and internal enemies continues. The Sandinist revolution has demonstrated its ability to defend itself. Now one of its main tasks is to beat those trying to undermine the revolution from within.

NICARAGUAN FOREIGN MINISTER D'ESCOTO INTERVIEWED

PM251409 Moscow SOVETSKAYA KULTURA in Russian 23 Jun 87 p 7

[Interview with Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto by APN correspondent Vadim Nizskiy, especially for SOVETSKAYA KULTURA, in Moscow: "This Revolution Cannot be Crushed!" -- date not given; first paragraph is a SOVETSKAYA KULTURA introduction]

[Excerpts] The International Lenin Prize "For Strengthening Peace Among Peoples" was presented in a festive atmosphere to Miguel D'Escoto, minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Nicaragua, in the Kremlin recently. [passage omitted]

[Nizskiy] How do you feel about the award of such a prestigious prize to you?

[D'Escoto] I perceive this prize as recognition of the Nicaraguan people's heroic struggle for peace. I consider Lenin one of the greatest figures in mankind's history. It is well known that "experts" in the sphere of disinformation are conducting an active campaign of lies in order to give peoples in the Third World a distorted impression of the Soviet Union and, incidentally, of the figure of the great founder of the Soviet state.

Washington accuses us of being great friends with the Soviet people. Our answer to this is: Indeed we are friends, and we would like to have the same relations with you. The great Soviet Union became the friend of tiny Nicaragua and treats us with great respect. Being a small people does not at all mean being less worthy. It would be nice if this were understood in the United States. During a meeting with Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, some time ago, I listened to him and thought that the Soviet leader's attitude toward the fate of peace contained much loftier spirituality than is to be experienced in some temples.

[Nizskiy] You have been presented with the International Peace Prize. I would imagine that some people would be displeased with this. After all, this runs contrary to the claims by some people that the Sandinist government is pursuing an aggressive policy and is threatening its neighbors and even the United States, the greatest Western power.

[D'Escoto] People in Latin America today know what Nicaragua is and why the United States is waging an undeclared war against it. Washington also knows the attitude of Latin American peoples toward my country. And it strives to stifle the Sandinist revolution because, according to its imperial logic, this revolution sets a dangerous example. I believe that it is right to a certain extent. Nicaragua is a peaceful country which has fought for its independence and is building a fair society. This is why the White House believes that Nicaragua is a threat to the United States.

[Nizskiy] What specific steps are being taken by the republic's government to resolve the conflict situation in the region by peaceful means?

[D'Escoto] Way back in 1983 we proposed to the Central American countries the conclusion of treaties making mandatory the observance of the norms of peaceful coexistence enshrined in the UN and OAS Charters.

We are prepared for a dialogue with the United States and call upon it to return to the negotiating table at Mansanillo which it has abandoned. Quite recently, Nicaragua's President Daniel Ortega proposed a continuation of the Nicaraguan-U.S. dialogue and asked for mediation by the Contadora group countries.

Nicaragua is not anti-America. It is not in the least the enemy of either peoples or governments. We are in favor of self-determination and independence. And we will always struggle for our rights to be respected.

REPORTAGE ON MEXICAN CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION'S VISIT

Arrives 2 July

LD022043 Moscow TASS in English 1717 GMT 2 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow July 2 TASS -- A delegation of the National Congress of Mexico headed by chairman of the Grand Commission of the Senate and chairman of the Standing Commission of the Congress Antonio Riva Palacio arrived here today on an official visit at the invitation of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR.

Later in the day the guests were received by Vice Presdient of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR Ringaudas-Bronislovas Songayla.

Official Views Goals

PM061319 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Jul 87 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "In Favor of Continuing Dialogue"]

[Text] Mexico City, 2 Jul -- The main objective of our visit to the Soviet Union is to assist the further development and strengthening of the relations of friendship and cooperation with Soviet parliamentarians and to continue our fruitful dialogue with them. It will also be interesting for us to see first hand the processes of economic restructuring and democratization of public life now underway in the USSR.

This was said in an interview with a TASS correspondent by Antonio Riva Palacio, speaker of the Senate of the National Congress and head of a delegation of Mexican parliamentarians who are on their way on an official visit to the USSR at the invitation of the USSR Supreme Soviet, prior to takeoff for Moscow.

Regardless of the different sociopolitical systems, our countries' positions on many key issues of our time are largely similar. Hence we acclaim and wholly and fully support the Soviet initiatives aimed at curbing the arms race and ensuring lasting peace. We also welcomed with profound gratification the USSR's positive response to the appeal by the Group of Six for termination of nuclear tests, and the Soviet Union's firm support of the efforts being made for peaceful settlement of the situation in Central America and the establishment of fair international economic relations.

Our delegation will take to Moscow the Mexican people's profound feelings of friendship and sympathy for the Soviet people, feelings born immediately after the victory of the Great October Socialist Revolution, whose 70th anniversary will be celebrated by all mankind. These feelings, tested by time and manifested in particular during the years of Soviet people's struggle against fascism, remain just as strong now, Antonio Riva Palacio emphasized in conclusion.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON RECENT SUPREME SOVIET SESSION

'Spirit' of Session Described

LD301413 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1230 GMT 30 Jun 87

[Excerpts] We go over to Georgiyevskiy Hall of the Kremlin palace. Our special correspondent is at the microphone:

The session lasted 2 days. The agenda has been exhausted. All questions have been resolved. New laws have been passed. [passage omitted]

As far as the procedures are concerned, all was as usual. But if you take the spirit of the session, its content, the mood of all who were here in the Kremlin, all this testifies to how the pace, direction, and goals of our life have changed. Take the laws passed -- of course, everyone will be able to study them, but even their very names testify to the depth to which the democratization process has affected all aspects of our country's economic and social life. Open and constructive criticism, specific proposals voiced during the deputies' speeches, beginning with the minister and ending with the worker, underscored time and again the businesslike rather than ceremonial course of the session. In this regard, the interest in the session's work is very great. We Soviet journalists have witnessed here, in Georgiyevskiy Hall, with what inspiration, one might say, our foreign colleagues were working, how many questions, most varied ones, they were putting to deputies -- ministers, workers, writers, managers of enterprises, actors, and party workers. It was difficult to break away from them when the bell would announce the start of another session. The time allotted for intervals was not enough.

One more interesting facet: Deputies were putting questions on behalf of those who elected them about the state of affairs in agriculture, in connection with complicated weather conditions, about the quality and cost of bread, about the process of implementation of the Law on Individual Labor Activity and of the decision on the setting-up of cooperatives. Full and honest answers were forthcoming and now deputies will be able to bring them to the notice of those who elected them when they return home.

Economic Management Resolution

PM021307 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 Jul 87 Morning Edition pp 1-2

["USSR Supreme Soviet Resolution on Restructuring National Economic Management at the Present Stage of the Country's Economic Development"]

[Text] Having listened to and discussed the report by deputy N.I. Ryzhkov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, the USSR Supreme Soviet notes that the restructuring taking place in the country is a direct continuation of the cause of Great October, is part and parcel of it, and is consonant with the chief goal of purposefully creating socialism.

The measures proposed by the government on restructuring national economic management and surmounting the contradictions between the established system of economic leadership and level of development of production forces are geared to the practical implementation of the strategic course elaborated by the 27th party congress of the CPSU Central Committee January and June (1987) Plenums of accelerating the country's socioeconomic development and fully exploiting socialism's potential in the interests of further boosting the people's well-being. These measures, elaborated on the basis of a profound Marxist-Leninist analysis of the objective laws of national economic development, are the result of the creative efforts of the entire Soviet people, party, soviet, and economic bodies, public organizations, labor collectives, and scientific personnel.

The USSR Supreme Soviet considers that in the period since the CPSU Central Committee April (1985) Plenum, Soviet society has firmly established itself on the path of radical transformations in all spheres of life and activity and the broad masses' active and committed involvement in it. At the same time, major shortcomings remain in the organization of social production. Mismanagement and violations of discipline are still making themselves felt, there is a considerable lag in trade and consumer services, and the material base of the social sphere is slow in developing. The restructuring of the work of the management apparatus has been delayed and there has been resistance to the progressive initiatives. In these conditions there is a pressing need to restructure the economy and carry out cardinal changes in the system of economic management.

The projected scientifically substantiated program for improving the management system is an integral one. It envisages extensively democratizing national economic leadership, widening enterprises' independence, and switching them to the principles of complete financial accountability, self-financing, and self-management. Planning, the system of economic incentives, and management's organizational structures are undergoing qualitative transformations. Profound changes are taking place in sectoral and territorial management. A resolute switch is taking place from predominantly administrative to predominantly economic methods. Many elements of the new approach to economic management have been tried and tested and have the broad support of labor collectives. Striking evidence of this was Soviet people's active involvement in the discussion of the draft USSR Law on State Enterprise (Association).

The USSR Supreme Soviet supports the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee June (1987) Plenum on questions of radically restructuring economic management and considers it necessary to use them as the foundations of the work of all organs of state power and management, labor collectives and public organizations.

The USSR Supreme Soviet decrees:

1. Approval of the USSR Government's projected measures on restructuring national economic management at the present stage of the country's economic development, which are geared to more fully revealing the potential of socialism, making the economy highly dynamic, flexible, and receptive to scientific and technical progress, democratizing production life, comprehensively developing the masses' live creative work, and galvanizing the human factor.

The adoption of the USSR Law on State Enterprise (Association) has key significance for the implementation of the stipulated transformations. The law is intended to consolidate the radical changes in management conditions and the switch to predominantly economic methods, to considerably widen independence and increase enterprises' responsibility, to fully safeguard the rights arising out of their leading role in socialist social production, and to determine the basic guidelines for restructuring the activity of state management bodies.

During the implementation of measures to restructure national economic management it is necessary to ensure consistent implementation of the Leninist principle of democratic centralism, the enhancement of the role of labor collectives, and the creation of organizational and economic conditions in which every collective and every working person is actually in charge of production and displays a public-spirited concern for strengthening discipline and order in production and for increasing the people's wealth.

The outlined measures demand a resolute improvement in economic cadres' work, a change in their thinking, and extensive utilization of economic methods of management and new forms of labor organization. It is necessary to give all-round support to cadres' initiative and socialist enterprise, increase their responsibility for the job in hand and for highly efficient production, and instill in them the ability to work in conditions of extensive democratism and openness.

2. In implementing the party's economic strategy the USSR Council of Ministers is to:

Ensure the stage-by-stage, consistent implementation of the entire range of measures on restructuring national economic management in accordance with the principles of complete economic accountability, self-financing, and self-management to enter the 13th 5-year plan with a well-tuned economic mechanism;

Gear the management system to profound transformations in the economy, the acceleration of scientific and technical progress, the improvement of work, and the dedication of production to the satisfaction of social requirements and Soviet people's needs;

Implement measures to radically change planning and material and technical provision and the management of scientific and technical progress, improve the finance and credit system, pricing, and labor and social development mangement, and improve statistics work; seek to ensure that the integral management system and all its elements are constantly in line with the changing conditions and new tasks of the country's socioeconomic development;

Radically improve the activity of central economic bodies, ministries and departments, union republic councils of ministers, and local management bodies, improve the style, forms, and methods of their work, and resolutely overcome manifestations of departmental and regional empire-building, red tape and formalism.

3. In accordance with the outlined measures on restructuring economic management, central economic bodies, above all the USSR Gosplan, are to focus attention on the scientifically substantiated long-term development of the national economy and on defining its structure, rate, and proportions, ensure the balanced growth of social production and coordination of general state interests with the interests of sectors, regions, and enterprises, and constantly improve the economic mechanism to create the most favorable conditions for the activity of the basic component of production -- enterprises and associations, implement a resolute switch to economic methods of management and give the centralized management of the national economy a new complexion by making extensive use of the entire system of economic levers, above all stable long-term economic normatives.

4. Ministries, state committees, and departments, following the guidelines approved by the CPSU Central Committee June (1987) Plenum for the radical restructuring of national economic sector management, are to resolutely change the forms and methods of leadership of associations, enterprises, and organizations, switch from administrative to mainly economic methods, provide the requisite conditions and scope for the application of complete economic accountability, self-financing, and self-management, and achieve on that basis accelerated scientific and technical progress and satisfaction of national economic and consumer needs in terms of high-quality products.

The simplification of organizational structures, the considerable reduction of the number of intermediate tiers, a higher level of production concentration, the formation of new types of associations, and the amalgamation of ministries should be the chief elements in the improvement of sector management.

In their work in tackling tasks of increasing consumer goods production, expanding services, ensuring environmental conservation, and other matters connected with the development of the social sphere, ministries and departments, union republic councils of ministers, and local soviets are to step up collaboration and work smoothly and purposefully.

5. Union and autonomous republic supreme soviets and councils of ministers are to restructure the system of the national economic leadership of the republics to ensure the comprehensive economic and social development of territories and an increase in each republic's contribution to strengthening the country's unified national economic complex. It is necessary to eradicate unwarranted duplication of the union-level management structure in the republics, develop democratism and openness, and wage an implacable struggle against administrative meddling, regional empire building, and red tape in the management apparatus. Efforts are to be made to further step up the activity of local soviets in economic and social and cultural building.

6. In the course of restructuring economic management on their territories local soviets are to ensure the comprehensive development of the economy, substantially improve the level of development of the social sphere, ensure the fullest statisfaction of consumer needs in terms of foodstuffs, high-quality consumer goods and services, housing, and medical, transport, and other types of services, and step up nature conservation activity. They are to make full use of their broad rights in the leadership of economic and social development by seeking out reserves and bringing them into play, making better use of the creative potential of the regions, and creating conditions for improving the efficiency and highly productive work of associations, enterprises, and organizations irrespective of what departments they belong to, and on that basis increasing local budget revenue. There is to be an all-round expansion of cooperative forms of production and consumer services and citizens' individual labor activity. Measures are to be taken to ensure that labor collectives' powers are actually implemented and to put into practice the principles of social justice.

7. The USSR Council of Ministers is to examine the proposals and observations made by Soviet of the Union and Soviet of Nationalities standing comissions and USSR Supreme Soviet deputies during the discussion of the question of restructuring national economic management at the present stage of the country's economic development and take the requisite steps.

A. Gromyko, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium
T. Menteshashvili, secretary of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.
The Kremlin, Moscow, 30 June 1987.

Petrov Addresses Session

PM031025 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 2 Jul 87 Morning Edition p 2

[Abbreviated version of speech delivered by Deputy Yu. V. Petrov of Kushvinskiy Electoral Okrug, Sverdlovsk Oblast, (first secretary of the Sverdlovsk CPSU Obkom), at 29 June afternoon session of USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of the Union under general heading "Debate on the Question of Restructuring National Economic Management at the Present Stage of the Country's Economic Development"]

[Text] Comrade deputies! The extensive program for fundamental restructuring of economic management, examined by the CPSU Central Committee June Plenum and submitted to the current session, is a specific expression of the consistent and persistent activity of the party Central Committee and the government to ensure real acceleration of the country's socioeconomic development and lays a reliable foundation for the practical implementation of the course of the CPSU Central Committee April (1985) Plenum and the 27th party congress.

We are essentially talking about the paramount and most important aspect -- demolishing the braking mechanism by granting genuine independence to enterprises and through the direct interest and responsibility of labor collectives and of local and central organs for end results, for the complete satisfaction of socially necessary requirements, and for the consolidation of the positions of socialism and the enhancement of its prestige.

It is obvious that the forces of inertia, prevailing stereotypes and dogmas, and habitual forms and methods can still delay our advance. From the psychological viewpoint too, by no means everyone in our society is prepared for the major changes that are under way, let alone the ones that are yet to come. We cannot rule out that, in the course of the elaboration of new normatives, some people will again try to restructure themselves only as a matter of form. Furthermore, miscalculations and mistakes can occur in such major and complex work.

In this context, it would seem appropriate to think out a system for implementing the restructuring of management, possibly by assigning the direct organizational work to a special organ of the USSR Council of Ministers and giving it the appropriate powers.

During the discussion of the draft law, collectives from low-profitability and loss-making enterprises, many of which will switch to the new conditions, expressed serious concern for their future. Such enterprises are to be found in our oblast, and there are quite a few of them throughout the country. The current price system is just one of the causes of the prevailing situation. We realize that a fundamental reform of the price formation system demands a balanced view, a scientifically substantiated approach, and, of course, time. But perhaps we should work out for this group of enterprises temporary prices and normatives which would operate during the transitional period and create equal opportunities for them.

The establishment of economic normatives is an exceptionally important question. The experience of work by the oblast's enterprises under the new conditions has already brought numerous anomalies to light. For example, when annual plan targets are fulfilled, the incentives funds of most collectives will be smaller than before. This is one of the reasons why there have not yet been any noticeable changes in the collectives' work, while leaders often waste their energy on fighting with the ministries rather than organizing a genuine improvement in affairs and making use of the right already vested in them.

A kind of tug-of-war is in progress. For the time being, the center is winning, often without bothering too much to offer convincing explanations, but this cannot go on much longer. The former magic principle of "You must" is not in line with the new economic methods of leadership. Hence it is necessary to speed up the elaboration of normatives as much as possible, discuss them broadly and openly at sector councils, bring them to the notice of the collectives, and convince the collectives that the decisions that have been made are justified.

For a long time now, our industrially developed oblast has been overloading the ecology, but the position it occupies in terms of social development level is far below its economic potential. All this must be taken into account. Evidently, the general principle must be: Provided they work well, laggards must be given an opportunity to rise to at least average level within the briefest possible time period. This principle of pulling up those who lag temporarily must underlie the elaboration of normatives for payments into local soviets' budgets. The normative approach should at long last free leaders of party and soviet organs from the need to constantly "wring out" funds in respect of sectors' proportional contribution to the solution of regional problems,and will give officials of local and central organs more time for more useful activity. In our view, these normatives must provide for the drawing up of local budgets in volumes ensuring the solution of the housing and other social problems of working people employed in health care services, education, culture, art, and other non-material spheres. This will be one form of the payment in respect of labor resources envisaged by the draft law.

We fully support the establishment of main production-economic administrations under krayispolkoms and oblispolkoms. There has been a pressing need for such a measure for some time now, and it will no doubt help to boost the efficiency of the national economy of the territory, and consequently of the country. It is merely necessary to ensure that the new organs are vested with extensive rights not only in planning but also in management and they ought to be adequately staffed with highly skilled workers for this purpose.

Comrades! It is profoundly symbolic that the decision on fundamental restructuring of economic management, whose cornerstone is the Law on State Enterprises (Association), is being taken in the year of the Great October's 70th anniversary. A new, very important, crucial stage is beginning. A large amount of new work is beginning. Its accurate guidelines were set by the CPSU Central Committee June Plenum and the present USSR Supreme Soviet session. Sverdlovsk Oblast's Communists and working people will do everything within their power to lead the oblast's economy to advanced frontiers and to augment their contribution to the common cause of communist building. I propose that the law be adopted. [applause]

Kovalev Speech

PM090949 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 2 Jul 87 Morning Edition p 3

[Abbreviated version of speech delivered by Deputy M.V. Kovalev of Bobruyskiy Electoral Okrug, Belorussian SSR, (chairman of the Belorussian Council of Ministers) at 29 June afternoon session of USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of Nationalities under general heading: "Debate on the Question of Restructuring National Economic Management at the Present Stage of the Country's Economic Development"]

[Text] Esteemed Comrade Deputies! We are considering today one of the most important restructuring issues. Raising our economy to a qualitatively new level demands profound and truly revolutionary transformations. [paragraph continues]

This is also the goal of the party's new economic strategy, which the CPSU Central Committee has been pursuing so consistently, persistently, and purposefully.

We welcomed and supported the CPSU Central Committee directive on completing the comprehensive restructuring of economic management in the current 5-year plan and bringing the Law on State Enterprise into effect as of 1 January next year. Of course, this will require of us even more vigorous action. Certain measures are being taken in this area in the republic.

It is not very long since the switch to complete economic accountability [khozraschet] and self-financing, but several positive elements have already appeared. The new management mechanism has prompted enterprises to take a more responsible view of contract commitments.

As for light industry, as of this year products are only produced on the basis of trade orders. Moreover, there has been a reduction in output prime cost and an increase in profit. People at every workplace are now being thriftier with raw and other materials -- they now have an interest in the end result. In other words, the cost-cutting mechanism is beginning to work. But at the same time negative factors have also emerged. It must be frankly admitted that many enterprises which have been transferred to the new management conditions do not yet have a sense of economic independence. In many cases the long-term economic normatives laid down for them do not take into account the actual state of production and the need to develop the production base and the social sphere.

It is well known that intensification of the economy is promoted by production sharing and the creation of production associations. But there are many cases where associations have been set up on a purely formal basis, without sufficient economic justification. For instance, in Orsha there was once a Ministry of Machine Building for Light and Food Industry and Household Appliances plant which produced equipment for sewn goods and knitwear enterprises and had a complete production cycle. But in a gesture to fashion the ministry decided to set up on the basis of the plant a "Promshveymash" Association incorporating another two small plants. One is in Poltava and the other in Rostov-na-Donu. Economic links are practically nonexistent and the economic impact is zero. How the association is going to operate in the new conditions is a highly problematic issue. There is a similar situation at other associations in the ministry.

So before transferring enterprises to complete economic accountability, taking into account the provisions of the new law, one should analyze very closely the existing structure, technical standards, and social needs, and only when all that has been considered determine the main criteria for work in the new conditions.

In our view, the switching of USSR Gossnab organs to wholesale trade must be begun not with regions or product types, as planned, but with sectors and enterprises which have switched to complete economic accountability and self-financing. We regard as perfectly correct the principle of the approach to the restructuring of union and republican management organs whereby everything that works for the whole country is transferred to union ministries and everything that serves local needs is transferred to republican ministries. Indeed, order must be established in this area because the lack of coordination [enterprise] subordination sometimes causes great harm.

Here is just one example. In Krichev we have a cement production association. Everyone badly needs its output. But production there has been reduced "to a trickle," so to speak. The basic technology has not been renewed for over 20 years and environmental pollution exceeds permitted levels.

No matter how hard we try to resolve the problem of this association, all our efforts have been in vain because, as well as a republican ministry, the Krichev association has a union Ministry of the Construction Material Industry, and the latter has a main administration for the cement industry. But the main administration is primarily concerned about the plants and associations directly subordinate to it, and the Krichev association is not one of them. So for many years it has not received any funds to maintain production at the proper level and to retool. The association cannot even use the production development fund, which now exceeds R2 million, since it is not allocated capital investment quotas. But we hope that the USSR Ministry of the Construction Materials Industry will solve this question in the 1988 plan. We believe that in the future the new management system will preclude such phenomena.

I propose approval of the draft Law on State Enterprise (Association), finalized in line with the results of the nationwide discussion and observations of the USSR Supreme Soviet chambers' standing commissions, and the draft USSR Supreme Soviet resolutions on the question under discussion. (applause)

Yezhevskiy on Agriculture

PM071603 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 2 Jul 87 Morning Edition p 2

[Abbreviated version of speech delivered by Deputy A.A. Yezhevskiy of Ekibastuzskiy Electoral Okrug, Pavlodar Oblast, (member of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR minister of Tractor and Agricultural Machine Building) at 29 June afternoon session of USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of the Union under general heading "Debate on the Question of Restructuring National Economic Management at the Present Stage of the Country's Economic Development"]

[Text] Esteemed comrade deputies! The Basic Provisions for the Radical Restructuring of Economic Management approved by the CPSU Central Committee June (1987) Plenum and the draft USSR Law on State Enterprise approved by the plenum in light of the results of the nationwide discussion, provide a powerful material foundation for the country's accelerated socioeconomic development in accordance with the 27th CPSU Congress' decisions.

It is quite right that the transformation of the economic mechanism should begin with the basic element -- the enterprise. The draft Law on State Enterprise, submitted for the session's examination, is a document of great political importance. After all, there have been quite a few resolutions on expanding enterprises' rights but they were essentially half measures and for that reason went unfulfilled.

To prevent this from happening now it is necessary to really free enterprises from petty tutelage and interference in their activity by superior economic organs. We have begun restructuring in this direction, we have taken the first steps. The associations and enterprises of the ministries in which approximately two-thirds of production are concentrated have changed to a two-tier system of management. Proposals are being formulated to create parent regional associations based on large tractor plants including enterprises for the production of agricultural machine complexes. In so doing it is of fundamental importance (and we are setting ourselves this task) to ensure that we work in close contact with local soviet organs on matters of increasing production efficiency and, most important of all, on the solution of social questions.

The changes now taking place in the country's economy require that priority be given to the consumer's interests. [paragraph continues]

Rural workers, who have understood well the potential of economic accountability and the collective and family contract, are increasingly judging output now from the viewpoint of its economic benefit, reliability, technical standard, and quality. The introduction of these forms of labor organization explains what is required of equipment. This in turn requires that we take the most resolute measures to step up the study of the demand for equipment, that we contact consumers directly, and that we restructure production rapidly in accordance with changing market conditions, the introduction of flexible techniques, and the development of customer services. The extensive development of the family contract in the countryside and the expansion of subsidiary plots also require the acceleration of the organization of machine production for small-scale mechanization.

The sector has been justly criticized for the insufficiently high qualitative and technical standard of a number of machines currently in production and for dictating to consumers. Even though the rate of development of new equipment has increased 150 percent in the past 3 years a serious backlog has allowed to occur in putting that equipment into production. This applies in particular to intensive production machinery and appliances for hitching to high-powered tractors.

In accordance with the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers decisions, we must improve the reliability of the work of agricultural equipment by 100-200 percent, increase the operating life of the basic tractors to 10,000-12,000 engine-hours by 1990 (as opposed to 6,000-8,000 hours at present), ensure that 80 percent of them match the world technical standard, and that all agricultural output in production meets the world's best technical standard by 1992.

I should particularly like to discuss the procedure for establishing prices for new equipment. The fact is that the existing price formation system is based on production costs. The cost principle in price-formation favors those enterprises with the highest output prime costs. As a result the profitability of new machines is two-three times lower than that for old equipment. This reduces enterprises' willingness to develop and produce new equipment and, of course, is contrary to the new economic management mechanism. To effectively encourage the production of new generations of equipment, it is necessary to take fuller account of the economic effect of the use of that equipment in the national economy when setting wholesale prices. When approving the Law on State Enterprise, the sector's workers see their main task, in conditions of the democratization of Soviet society and the acceleration of the socioeconomic processes taking place in it, as the creation in every labor collective of all the necessary conditions for creative and highly-productive labor aimed at achieving the earliest possible implementation of the 27th CPSU Congress decisions and ensuring a fitting greeting for the 70th anniversary of the Great October Revolution. (applause)

Kachura on Ukraine Production

PM031052 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 2 Jul 87 Morning Edition p 2

[Abbreviated version of speech delivered by Deputy B.V. Kachura of Donetskiy-Voroshilovskiy Electoral Okrug, Donetsk Oblast, (member of CPSU Central Committee and secretary of Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee) at 29 June afternoon session of USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of the Union under the general heading: "Debate on the Question of Restructuring National Economic Management at the Present Stage of the Country's Economic Development"]

[Text] Comrade Deputies!

The Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee and the Ukrainian SSR Council of Ministers are taking measures to make the current 5-year plan a turning point in the cause of accelerating socioeconomic development. Last year the growth rate for national income was at the planned level, while the volumes of industrial production and labor productivity in the republic exceeded the planned volumes and were higher than the average annual indicators over the past 5 years. But it has not been possible to consolidate them.

There was a breakdown in the first quarter. Workers in machine building, the chemical industry, construction, and transport failed to cope with their targets. The nonfulfillment of contracted deliveries by metallurgical workers had a particularly adverse impact on the work of other sectors.

The lag with regard to industrial production volumes has now been eliminated as a result of the measures taken. Calculations show that the arrears in terms of metal deliveries will also be covered. The plan for 1987 and the first 2 years of the 5-year plan will be fulfilled in all the most important areas.

Nevertheless, many key tasks in the economy and in the social sphere are still being resolved unsatisfactorily. The switch to economic methods of management is being made only slowly.

When speaking of the territorial aspects of restructuring, it should be emphasized that the problem of the rational siting of new production facilities and the expansion of existing ones is becoming exceptionally acute for the Ukraine. Technogenic pressure [tekhnogennoye vliyaniye] per unit of area in the republic is close to the maximum permitted levels, and water resources are limited. They are in particularly short supply in the Dnepr basin, whose water is consumed by 35 million people and two-thirds of the industrial enterprises located on the republic's territory. Agriculture is also a large consumer of water.

You might think everything here is clear. When drawing up proposals for siting the sector's enterprises and when planning them, ministries and departments must not only proceed from purely departmental interests but also take full account of ecological, social, and demographic features and the problems of the regions where these enterprises will be constructed and will operate.

This approach is in full accordance with the decisions adopted by the government. Unfortunately, it is far from always that this is being done.

I would like to single out questions of developing the social sphere. The CPSU Central Committee plenum once again named the housing problem among the urgent tasks.

Last year the measures being taken made it possible to construct more than 1 million square meters of housing over and above the plan. The possibility of commissioning 2 million square meters of housing more than envisaged in the 5-year plan has already been found this year. Restructuring has affected all sections of the construction complex, and the old ties with clients and planning organs have collapsed. New ties are being created and organized with difficulty.

The existing base of the construction industry and construction materials is 60-80 percent worn out. It will be difficult to resolve the set tasks without its modernization and preferential development. [paragraph continues]

Taking into account the fact that the shared participation of ministries in development of the construction base will be abolished, the USSR Gosplan must provide for the allocation of capital investments and material resources directly to republics in plans to develop the base of the construction industry and construction materials production with ceilings on contract work.

The state of affairs in capital construction is also adversely affected by the fact that the planned work volumes do not balance with the existing capacities of construction organizations. The issuing of plans and equipment continues to be delayed. Some 80-90 percent of capacities nearing completion are groundlessly put off until the end of the year -- which gives rise to rush work and adversely affects work quality. Client ministries display activeness only when they seek to get new projects included in the plan, regardless of the lack of planning documentation, equipment, and new construction sites. It would be possible not to speak of these shortcomings if not for the persistent attempts of ministries to continue this practice in the plans for 1988.

I submit a proposal to adopt the Law on State Enterprise (Association) and to approve the documents on restructuring national economic management submitted for examination at the session. (applause).

Menteshashvili Report

PM021215 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 July 87 Morning Edition p 6

[Report delivered by T.N. Menteshashvili, secretary of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, at 30 June afternoon joint session of USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of the Union and Soviet of Nationalisties: "On the Ratification of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium Decrees"]

[Text] Esteemed deputies, the decrees which the Supreme Soviet is to ratify today and the materials relating to them are in your possession. The stipulated period has elapsed since the Presidium adopted these decrees, and the majority of them are already in force. Therefore permit me to give a brief report.

Last December addenda were introduced to the Law on the Status of People's Deputies in the USSR. In accordance with the practice of many years a new artic e was promulgated specifying the procedure for the formation of deputies' groups and collaboration between deputies of soviets of different echelons on the relevant territory. It is obviously not without interest to say that after each election to local soviets, tens of thousands of territorial and production deputies' groups are created in our country.

Important principled decisions on the leadership of the country's economy have been adopted at the last party Central Committee plenum and today at the session. In connection with the fact that enterprises' and associations' independence and initiative are being considerably expanded and their responsibility for the results of their activity is being enhanced, there has also been an increase in the role of contract discipline and the necessity to strengthen legality in economic activity as a whole.

To this end the Supreme Soviet's decrees of 18 February and 22 June this year extend the powers of the organs of the State Arbitration Commission and step up their coordinating role in providing a legal base for new economic management conditions and strengthening legality and discipline. They have defined the powers of the soviets of people's deputies with regard to leadership of the arbitration organs and a new procedure for appointing arbitrators.

In the interests of further improving the Soviet state's foreign economic activity and deepening mutually beneficial international cooperation, appropriate decrees have been adopted, associated with the creation and operation in our country of joint enterprises and associations in which Soviet and foreign organizations and firms will participate. As you know, this work is now being expanded,

Esteemed deputies!

It is well known what great significance the party attaches to the eradication of drunkenness and alcoholism from the life of our society. After examining recently the progress of the execution of the relevant decisions and after noting positive changes, the CPSU Central Committee also pointed to existing shortcomings in this work and the necessity to speed it up. In this connection a decree was adopted 29 May designed to increase the effectiveness of the struggle against moonshine manufacture.

Under the conditions of restructuring and openness Soviet people are speaking out increasingly exigently in favor of purging our life of all kind of negative phenomena. Taking into consideration the numerous proposals by working people, administrative and criminal responsibility has been stepped up for offenses associated with drug addiction, illegal dealings in foreign currency, and certain violations of public order.

In the period since the preceding session, the Supreme Soviet Presidium has also adopted other decrees, which are also aimed at resolving pressing economic and social tasks. They are particularly concerned with amplifying the Law on People's Control, applying individual articles of the Customs Code, and changing certain provisions of tax legislation.

A recently adopted decree concerning changes and addenda to the Law on the USSR Prosecutor's Office was recently introduced for your ratification. This act provides for an increase in the role of supervision by the prosecutor's office in strengthening socialist legal order and the rule of law, stepping up the safeguarding of citizens' rights, and further consolidating the democratic foundations of Soviet society.

Legislative activity, as has been seen, has occupied and continues to occupy a large place in the work of the Supreme Soviet and its Presidium, which is illustrated by the present session. This is quite understandable. The restructuring under way in the country has demanded a considerable renewal of the legal basis of state and public life. The Supreme Soviet Presidium has also constantly kept sight of other questions of state and sociocultural building and the implementation of the party's peace-loving foreign policy course. A great deal of attention was devoted to the elections to the local organs of state power, and to the enhancement of the role of the soviets in resolving the tasks set by our party's 27th congress. You have had the opportunity to familiarize yourselves in more detail with the material concerning the activity of the Supreme Soviet and its organs. They have been presented to you. However, we understand that as yet not everything has been done as the interests of restructuring demand.

The recent party Central Committee plenum and the report delivered by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, are aimed at ensuring that the organs of state power should be even more thoroughly involved in socioeconomic questions and participate more actively in the process of transforming all aspects of our life. We see that the task lies in transforming the plenum's innovative decisions into practical activity by the Soviets.

Comrade deputies! As you know, within the established procedure the Presidium has made a number of appointments and relieved a number of people of their duties.

Comrade B.L. Tolstykh has been appointed deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the USSR State Committee for Science and Technology.

Comrade S.I. Manyakin has been approved as chairman of the USSR People's Control Committee. A.M. Shkolnikov, who had held this post, will be released in connection with his retirement on pension.

Army General D.T. Yazov has been appointed USSR Minister of Defense. Marshal of the Soviet Union S.L. Sokolov has been released from these duties in connection with his retirement on pension.

Decrees have also been adopted concerning the leaders of a number of other union ministries, state committees, and members of the USSR Committee of People's Control. This has been published in the "Records of the USSR Supreme Soviet," and reported to the press.

The texts of the decrees and the drafts of the relevant USSR laws and resolutions are at your disposal.

We ask you, esteemed deputies, to examine them and adopt them. (applause)

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON RSFSR SUPREME SOVIET SESSION

LD062116 Moscow in English to Great Britain and Ireland 1900 GMT 6 Jul 87

[Text] The Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation, the biggest Soviet republic, has completed the first day of its session in Moscow. In a businesslike and critical way it discussed ways of improving trade and the catering service. Speakers noted that the pace and trade development had not met so far the requirements of the republic, with a population of 145 million. Although trade turnover rose by more than 7 percent in the past year, there is still a shortage of a number of goods. To correct this situation it is planned to speed up the development of the consumer goods industries and trade network. Cooperative and individual forms of labor activity in these spheres are becoming a major supplement to state-run enterprises. More than 1,500 cooperatives are already operational in the republic's catering and other services and in the manufacture of consumer goods.

The Supreme Soviet will also consider how the constituents' mandates have been carried out.

Kazakov Presents Retail Report

LD061017 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0800 GMT 6 Jul 87

[Text] A report on the tasks of the RSFSR soviet and economic bodies in improving retail trade and catering in light of the 27th CPSU Congress and the guidelines of the CPSU Central Committee January 1987 Plenum was delivered by Deputy Kazakov, deputy chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers. He said in part:

[Begin Kazakov recording] An organic part of the CPSU's current strategy is its vigorous social policy. This serves the further growth of the propsperity of the people and the fuller satisfaction of people's increasing material and spiritual needs. Positive changes in this sphere are the main objective of restructuring; it is by them that the working people will judge the effectiveness of the reform program proclaimed by the party. At the same time, every step forward in solving social problems has in turn a favorable effect on all other areas of the life of society.

In the 1 and 1/2 years of the 12th 5-Year Plan that has elapsed, the socioeconomic development of the Russian Federation has, on the whole, proceeded in accordance with the orientations of the state plan. Indices have improved in most branches of the economy. The volume of industrial output in the territory of the republic increased by 4.8 percent in 1986 and rose by 4.9 percent in the first half of this year; the whole of this increase being obtained by raising labor productivity.

The agro-industrial complex has begun to operate with greater stability. There has been a noticeable increase in production of most types of agricultural produce. The volume of amenity construction in the social sphere has increased and that increase has been considerable. For the first time in many years, the plan for commissioning residential buildings has been fulfilled. Real income per capita of population has increased, as have the average wages of workers, employee salaries, and the pay of collective farmers. So the strategy of restructuring is beginning to yield tangible results. Today it is already having a positive effect on people's standard of living, on their sociopolitical and labor activeness, and on the moral climate of society.

At the same time, the government of the republic realizes that the process of deep change is encountering great difficulties. In a number of areas of economic development the set targets have not been attained. One important area of work to improve the prosperity of the people is fuller satisfaction of the demand by working people for consumer goods. An analysis of the results of work in retail trade shows that here certain positive changes have been taken place. In 1986, the increase in retail trade turnover, not including sales of alcoholic drinks, amounted to 7.1 percent. Its structure has improved. The proportion of nonfood products exceeded half the volume. Sales of alcoholic drinks were reduced by more than one-third.

At the same time it must be said that the great potential of this industry is not yet being used effectively enough. In assessing what has been achieved from the positions of the 27th CPSU Congress, it is necessary to note that the soviet and economic bodies of the republic have not succeeded in bringing about any appreciable improvement in retail services for the population. Moreover, conservatism, the force of inertia, and old stereotypes of work in that industry are being manifested with particular vividness. As we know, the industry is developing in difficult conditions, with high demand and high purchasing power among the population and a shortage of goods. We are not yet succeeding in overcoming these contradictions. In the 1 and 1/2 years of the current 5-year plan the total volume of retail trade turnover was underfulfilled by R11 billion. The population is complaining that many goods are not available in the shops, and that they are poor quality; that the retail trade network is underdeveloped especially in rural areas; that standards of service are poor; that there are queues; that sales staff are passive and inattentive; and that catering is inefficient. All this calls for serious changes in the way retail trade is organized. It must be more fully directed toward meeting the requirements of Soviet people. [end recording]

Comrade Kazakov dealt with the problems of catering. He pointed to the need for a radical change in the working style at all managerial levels of retail trade and catering and an improvement in work with cadres. He noted in his report that in the present 5-year plan capital investment allocated to the development of the material-technical base of retail trade and catering has been twice as high as in the previous period. The speaker described the main conditions of management to which all the republic's retail trade organizations have been transferred as from 1 July. He described the expansion of the rights of the local soviets in development retail trade and spoke of other measures which are being taken to improve the organization of retail trade and catering and the living and working conditions of workers in the industry.

Podolskiy on Goods, Services

LD061433 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0930 GMT 6 Jul 87

[Report by Standing Commission on Consumer Goods and Services to the Population by commission chairman Podolskiy, at the 6 Jul session of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet -- read by announcer]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The retail trade turnover for our republic increased for last year by more than 7 percent. This does not take into account sales of alcoholic beverages. Incidentally, R11 billion less were produced. For every 100 families, there are now 25 refrigerators, 76 washing machines, 105 televisions, and 15 cars. However, the quality of these far from corresponds to the requirements of today. Every second television set and every fourth tape recorder goes for after sales repairs under warranty.

New forms of trade have emerged -- the fair, exhibition sales, bazaars, but these are making headway slowly and are difficult to accept for those working in trade themselves. Local industry producing goods in daily demand is developing slowly and cooperatives are now being fully exploited. As a result there has been no fundamental improvement in product supplies.

The deputies have assembled to deal with these problems.

7 July Proceedings Detailed

LD071036 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0800 GMT 7 Jul 87

[Text] Today in Moscow the 5th session of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet of the 11th convocation continued its work in the Great Kremlin Palace. Deputies and guests applauded Comrade Vorotnikov, Nikonov, Slyunkov, Demichev, Talyzin, Biryukova, and Lukyanov. A report on the work of the Russian Federation's Soviets of People's Deputies with electors' requests was given by Deputy Ivanova, deputy chairman of the republic's Supreme Soviet Presidium.

She said there was profound social and political meaning in electors' requests to the deputies and to authorized representative of the people in the bodies of state power. They are a reflection of the priority long-term requirements of the regions and the social needs of the population. In assessing the state of work with requests, it is possible to say that implementing them has facilitated the reinforcement of the material base and the improvement of working and living conditions for the working people of many regions. There are still, however, serious shortcomings in this work and these are being eliminated slowly. There can be no acceptance of such a situation in conditions of restructuring, stressed Comrade Ivanova.

After all, the requests reflect what needs to be dealt with urgently. The greater part of them are connected to expanding the construction of housing, hospitals, trade and domestic service enterprises, and cultural amenities. Inertia when working with these requests is impermissible.

The rapporteur noted that serious shortcomings in complying with requests are caused by incorrect practice in forming them and by a formalistic and bureaucratic approach. Almost 7 years have passed since the adoption of statutes on work with electors' requests. A certain positive experience has built up at the local level over that time, which needs to become more general and to be developed further. At the same time, all-union and republican legislation on requests does not take into account profound and dynamic renewal processes. In this regard, the deputy chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet Presidium proposed the introduction of appropriate alterations to the statutes in force. It appears expedient, stressed Comrade Ivanova, to determine a guarantee of the forms and means of implementing requests and the rights and obligations of the soviets and the deputies themselves, as well as of the relevant ministries and departments, enterprises, organizations, and institutions, in the process of dealing with requests from the moment of their acceptance to their full implementation, and at the same time laying down responsibility for putting the commissions of the electors -- of both officials and of deputies -- into effect.

Deputies who spoke in the debates, Comrade Tretyakov, chairman of the Arkhangelsk Gorispolkom; Gusev, second secretary of the Altay Kraykom; Sukhini, chairman of the Istra Gorispolkom, Moscow Oblast; and other comrades held the same opinion regarding the need for the adoption of a new law that will ensure strict control and responsibility for effecting electors' requests. Their speeches spoke of the need to regard electors' requests as the basis for the region's social and economic development plans and devote attention to seeking new ways of improving the activity of the soviets of people's deputies.

The session is continuing its work.

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA on Meeting

PM081105 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 8 Jul 87 Second Edition p 2

[TASS report: "In the RSFSR Council of Ministers"]

[Text] A session of the RSFSR Council of Ministers attended by chairmen of autonomous republic councils of ministers, krayispolkoms, and oblispolkoms was held 7 July.

The session discussed the question of the priority tasks of RSFSR soviet and economic organs on implementing the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee June (1987) Plenum and the 7th Session of the USSR Supreme Soviet, 11th convocation, on the fundamental restructuring of the management of the republic's economy. A report was delivered by V.I. Vorotnikov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers.

The report and speeches noted that RSFSR working people welcomed with profound gratification the program for the radical reform of economic management, whose implementation will represent a new and major step in implementing the 27th CPSU Congress strategy aimed at the comprehensive renewal of Soviet society.

It was emphasized that in the period since the CPSU Central Committee April (1985) Plenum the RSFSR has firmly taken the path of profound transformations in all spheres of social life and activity. At the same time, substantial shortcomings still exist in many sectors of the national economy, and there are breaches of discipline and instances of economic mismanagement. A substantial lag is being allowed to build up in the social sphere. Some RSFSR ministries and departments, oblasts, krays, and autonomous republics are being slow to implement the transition from old to new methods of management and failing to display the due resolve in eliminating everything hindering the acceleration of socioeconomic development; parasitical moods are strong.

The RSFSR Council of Ministries adopted the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee June (1987) Plenum for unswerving guidance and execution and defined measures for their implementation. RSFSR ministries and departments, autonomous republic councils of ministers, krayispolkoms and oblispolkoms, and the Moscow and Leningrad Gorispolkoms were instructed to immediately launch work on organizing the implementation of the CPSU Central Committee plenum and USSR Supreme Soviet session decisions, to implement a package of measures for restructuring the management of national economic sectors on the principles of complete economic accountability [khozyaystvennyy raschet], self-financing, and self-management and for consistently implementing the USSR Law "On State Enterprises (Associations)," and by all means to develop the working people's labor and social activeness. It was pointed out that attention must be especially concentrated on ensuring the unconditional fulfillment of the targets set by the State Plan for the RSFSR's Economic and Social Development in 1987 and the socialist pledges adopted by working people for a fitting welcome of the Great October Socialist Revolution's 70th anniversary.

The RSRSR Council of Ministers approved a plan of priority organizational measures for implementing the CPSU Central Committee June (1987) Plenum decisions "On the Party's Tasks for the Radical Restructuring of Economic Management."

SHEVARDNADZE ADDRESSES FOREIGN MINISTRY STAFF

LD042032 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1430 GMT 4 Jul 87

[Text] There was a meeting today of the workers of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The meeting discussed the tasks of the USSR Foreign Ministry and its establishments abroad in improving foreign economic work in light of the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee's June Plenum.

The aktiv was addressed by: Comrade Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR foreign minister; comrades Antonov and Kamentsev, deputy chairmen of the USSR Council of Ministers; Comrade Aristov, USSR minister of foreign trade; USSR ambassadors to a number of countries; Comrade Chervonenko, head of a CPSU Central Committee department; senior staff members of the apparatus of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers; and executive staff of ministries and departments.

MID-JUNE WEATHER, CROP DEVELOPMENT REPORTED

PM251529 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 24 Jun 87 p 2

[Agrometeorologist N. Ignatova report under the rubric "The USSR Hydrometeorology Center Reports": "Weather and Crops"]

[Text] Hot weather prevailed over the European territory of the USSR during most of the second 10-day period in June. The average atmospheric temperature was 2-5 degrees higher than the long-term average, and this helped the faster growth of agricultural crops. Winter grain crops formed ears and flowered 5-10 days earlier than the long-term average. The grains on winter grain crops in the southern Ukraine, Moldavia, the northern Caucasus, and the lower Volga valley region have reached the stage of milky ripeness. Depending on growth stage, the height of winter wheat plants ranges between 85 and 105 centimeters, and of rye plants between 100 and 170 centimeters. The heavy rain which fell during the middle of the month over most of the Ukraine, Moldavia, Belorussia, and the northern Caucasus, Baltic, North-west, North, Central, and Central Chernozem regions supplemented the moisture reserves in the soil. Moisture reserves in these regions were in the main sufficient to ensure full grain formation.

Rainfall in certain regions caused lodging of high-stem grain plants and encouraged the development of grain crop diseases on winter crops (powdery mildew, brown leaf rust, and root rot). The development of spring grain crops progresses at a pace similar to the long-term average.

The warm weather and the adequate moisture availability for crops in most regions where grain corn is being cultivated have helped the faster growth and development of plants. Leaf growth is under way everywhere.

Favorable weather conditions have helped the intensive accumulation of plant bulk in grasses and promoted leaf formation in sugar beet. The first mowing has taken place in southern Belorussia and the Ukraine's clover-growing oblasts.

The growth of fruit buds and fruit continued among fruit crops. Apple, cherry, and plum trees in some regions of Moldavia, the Ukraine, the Baltic region, and Belorussia suffered leaf damage, branches were broken off, and fruit buds and fruit were knocked down as a result of heavy rainfall accompanied by strong gusts of wind and hail.

Additional watering was required in several regions to ensure the formation of a good harvest from heat-loving vegetable crops. Cucumbers on farms in the Ukraine and the Central Chernozem and southern Central regions have reached the gherkin stage at plantations where polymer films are used. Cherries, apricots, and peaches have ripened in the North Caucasus and the Transcaucasus.

Hot and dry weather prevailed in the western half of Kazakhstan, while the temperature in the east was the usual for the time of year. The weather was cold in Tomsk, Novosibirsk, and Kemerovo Oblasts, Krasnoyarsk Kray, and the east of Irkutsk Oblast. Atmospheric and ground surface frost, ranging between 1 and 4 degrees below zero, was recorded in several regions. Early spring grain crops started sprouting third leaves and tillering began in Siberia's crop farming zone and Kazakhstan's northern oblasts, and stem growth began among early-sown plants.

The hot weather in central Asian republics (excluding Kirghizia) helped to speed up the ripening of fruit crops. The mass gathering of the cherry harvest was carried out, and early apples, apricots, and plums have ripened. Tomatoes have reached the stage of flesh-colored ripeness. Cucumbers are flowering, and the gherkin stage has been reached in places. Winter rye has ripened in Uzbekistan and Kirghizia, grain harvesting has taken place, and soil preparation has been performed for the summer sowing of corn.

Weather conditions in the last 10 days and during the preceding period resulted in uneven growth and development of cotton in cotton-growing regions of Central Asia and in the south of Kazakhstan. Over most of the territory, cotton plants developed their eighth real leaf and flower bud formation continued.

MEDIA COVERS 25-27 JUNE AGRICULTURAL WORK

LD290220 [Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on agricultural developments in the USSR carried by Moscow Domestic Service in Russian, unless otherwise indicated, on 25-27 June. GMT times of broadcasts are given in parentheses at the end of each item.

25 June

Barley harvesting has been completed in the Ararat Valley, Armenia. The average yield is 79 quintals per hectare. (0000)

Another agro-industrial combine has been set up. It includes 46 processing and trade enterprises in Tolyatti and Zhigulevsk, and also the kolkhozes and sovkhozes of Stavropol Rayon, adjacent to those towns. (0000)

To date 250,000 tonnes of grain have been threshed on kolkhozes and sovkhozes in Uzbekistan. (0204)

26 June

The rate of laying in feed crops in the Ukraine has been accelerated noticeably. Grass is now being mown on the third millionth hectare in the republic. However, the amount of feed laid in is not everywhere combined with quality. Our correspondent reports that on many farms in Nikolayev and Odessa Oblasts feed storage is being carried out without laboratory analyses, or they are being done too late, when nothing can be put right. There are frequent cases of crude violations of the processes for making hay and laying haylage in Vinnitsa Oblast. That is leading to a rapid deterioration of feed. (0400)

COSMOS-1865 SCIENTIFIC SATELLITE LAUNCHED 8 JULY

LD090631 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0611 GMT 9 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow, 9 Jul (TASS) -- Another artificial earth satellite, Cosmos-1865, was launched in the Soviet Union on 8 July 1987. The satellite carries scientific apparatus for continuing space research.

The satellite has been placed in orbit with the following parameters:

initial period of revolution -- 89.5 minutes;
apogee -- 327 kilometres;
perigee -- 204 kilometres;
orbital inclination -- 64.8 degrees.
besides scientific apparatus, the satellite carries:
-- a radio system for precise measurement of orbital elements;
-- a radiotelemetry system for transmitting to earth data about the work of the instruments and scientific apparatus.

The apparatus aboard the satellite is working normally. The coordinating and computing center is processing the incoming information.

'MIR' COSMONAUTS END FIFTH MONTH IN ORBIT

LD071419 Moscow TASS in English 1316 GMT 7 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow July 7 TASS -- TASS correspondents reporting from the Mission Control Centre:

Soviet cosmonauts Yuriy Romanenko and Aleksandr Laveykin have been in the near earth orbit for five months now.

In the past few days a series of geophysical experiments has been conducted as part of the programme aimed at studying the earth's natural resources and the environment. Different Soviet regions, including the south Urals, the Caspian depression and the Far East, were photographed from the manned "Mir" complex.

The integrated propulsion system was refuelled in accordance with the plan of unloading the unmanned Progress-30 transport.

Today, the crew were engaged in maintenance work with a temperature control system and adjusted a new astrotracker.

Within the framework of an international programme for astrophysical research, they conducted observations of an X-ray source in the Cygnus constellation with the help of telescopes of the "Roentgen" observatory.

According to crew reports and telemetry data, the flight is proceeding under the programme.

The cosmonauts are feeling well.

SHABANOV ADDRESSES VOLGA KOMSOMOL AKTIV MEETING

PM061135 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Jun 87 p 2

[Correspondent Major A. Goncharov report: "Komsomol Aktiv Meeting"]

[Text] A frank and principled discussion has been held at a Red Banner Volga Military District Komsomol Aktiv meeting.

The report by Major V. Gusev, assistant chief of the district political directorate for Komsomol work, and the speeches by Colonel General V. Patrikeyev, district commander; Major General V. Filippov, member of the military council and chief of the political directorate; Captain V. Popov, Lieutenant M. Martynenko, and Junior Sergeant V. Kazakaov talked about ways of increasing the militancy and activeness of Komsomol organizations in the light of the demands of the party and the 20th Komsomol Congress.

Army General V. Shabanov, USSR deputy defense minister, took part in and addressed the Komsomol aktiv meeting.

EDITORIAL URGES 'PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY'

PM261533 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Jun 87 (no edition notation) p 1

[Editorial: "The Leader Must Be Especially Accountable"]

[Text] "Everything depends on people... I think that everyone will agree that now, during restructuring, which has enhanced the role of the human factor in the solution of all our problems, this truth acquires a special meaning.

"In that context I should like to tell you about Colonel V. Kolpakov. Several years ago he was appointed a unit commander. Matters in the unit improved immediately. The main 'accelerators' of progress were the commander's high level of competence, his exactingness toward himself and his subordinates, and the ability to rely on the strength of the party organization. Kolpakov has been awarded the order "For service to the Motherland in the USSR Armed Forces," third class. Recently he was promoted. By observing his own rule of viewing each new rung on the official ladder from the standpoint of increased responsibility and greater exactingness toward himself, he has already made a real contribution to improving combat readiness in his new post."

There is much to ponder in this letter to the editorial office from Lieutenant Colonel A. Belousov. For example, about how much depends on the commander, political worker, or any military leader. About how highly the party and the Soviet people rate the work of those officers who selflessly perform their military duty. Hero of the Soviet Union Major General Yu. Kuznetsov, Major General of Aviation V. Pokhodenko, Rear Admiral V. Agafonov, Colonels V. Zavarzin and P. Shemetilo, and many other generals, admirals, and officers can be included among leaders of that type. What they have in common is a thorough understanding of the fact that in present-day complex international conditions all army and navy cadres must act with the greatest responsibility and strive, and the party Central Committee demands, for the resolute improvement of the standard of combat readiness and discipline, the skillfull management of troops, and to ensure that they are always able to prevent any encroachments on our state's sovereignty.

The Soviet people and our party, as the CPSU Central Committee January (1987) Plenum stressed, are doing their utmost to strengthen the Armed Forces and are entitled to expect that no aggressive forces will be able to catch them unawares. These guidelines and the party's present-day demands on combat readiness present military cadres with specific tasks. Justifying the trust of the people and the party means working selflessly in one's assigned area, doing one's duty in an exemplary fashion, establishing discipline, organization, and order, and striving for high end results. Lenin's dictum to act "with the force of authority, the force of energy, superior experience, superior versatility, and superior talent" is of special relevance for us today. It is important to always remember that authority is not conferred by office. It is won by honest and highly efficient work, high party-mindedness, and moral integrity.

Whilst commending those who do work in the spirit of today's requirements and who do their job honorably, we cannot fail to acknowledge that there are a number of leaders who do not live up to the trust placed in them and who perform their duties without the due sense of responsibility. This is demonstrated by the recent failure to prevent a violation of the Soviet Union's air space and other grave shortcomings committed by leaders.

A post of responsibility was, for instance, entrusted to Major General A. Makarov. He was naturally expected to set an example of high competence, selflessness, and honesty. However, he chose to abuse his official position and disregard moral norms. A. Makarov was demoted, severely reprimanded by the party, and his record card was endorsed. Severe reprimands were also handed out to Lieutenant General V. Barshatly and Major General R. Kiudmaa. The former has been chief of the Baku Higher Combined Armed Command School named for the Azerbaijan SSR Supreme Soviet for about 10 years. And the result? A recent check revealed grave omissions in the style of the chief's work, in the organization of the training and education process, and in the preparation of graduates. R. Kiudmaa, who has for a long time headed the Estonian SSR military commissariat, showed no zeal for official duties but was enterprising and resourceful when pursuing his own selfish aims -- he resorted to skulduggery and forged strong links with the "right" people. For abuse of official position and personal immodesty, Captain First Class A. Yakovlev was warned that he failed to meet the requirements of the post, was severely reprimanded as a Communist, and had his record card endorsed. Colonel V. Pakhomov, chief of the political department of special units at the N garrison, failed the test of office, too. For failing to take measures to restructure party political work and for abuse of official position for selfish purposes he was severely reprimanded and had his record card endorsed. He has been recommended for dismissal from the Armed Forces.

Such cases are a direct consequence of reduced exactingness on the part of the relevant chiefs, political organs, and party organizations and reduced attention to the education of leading cadres. Total permissiveness, opportunism, and pretence became prevalent among some leaders who were beyond daily official or party control. Sometimes their prime concern was a desire to take advantage of their position, to flaunt their "erudition," to dazzle with a brilliant phrase or a hollow assurance, and a concern for what people thought of them rather than for results. The atmosphere of low exactingness gave rise to ambition and overconfidence and provided a breeding ground for flatterers and toadies. Some commanders and chiefs, who forgot that one-man leadership presupposes above all a high responsibility for one's area of work, were more concerned to find excuses to justify the shortcomings and their own inactivity rather than to improve the style of their work and seek the most effective ways to resolve the tasks ahead.

For example, the practice of citing various factors allegedly making it impossible to work properly at combat training planning became widespread. [paragraph continues]

In fact it turned out that some leaders had become accustomed to slackness whereas combat training, as we all know, demands painstaking daily work. This attitude to he fulfillment of duties was one reason for the phenomena of stagnation in work designed to improve combat training, strengthen discipline, and resolve problems in the social sphere.

It is important to resolutely adhere to the principle that each person must know and do his job well and bear a level of personal responsibility -- party, official, or legal responsibility -- for it as laid down by his office. The words "duty" [dolg] and "office" [dolzhnost] have the same root. We say: duty commands; it commands and instructs, whereas office means strictly fulfilling one's obligations and showing at the same time a persistence, will, determination, and ability to see things through to the end. It is the lofty duty of every commander, political worker, and every officer to ask himself once again whether he is doing everything to ensure that the situation in his assigned area satisfies the increased demands of the times.

The attitude to restructuring, an attitude measured not in words but in deeds, the ability to implement its demands in the light of the complex character of the present-day international situation, the current military danger, and the new provisions of Soviet military doctrine are the decisive yardsticks of the maturity of leaders of all ranks. Fewer words, assurances, and promises, more real deeds, practical results, responsiblity and principledness, implacability toward carelessness and indifference, greater cohesion in work, more attention to people, greater personal modesty -- that is the main measure by which to evaluate cadres, their ideological commitment and competence, that is the essence of the party's demands on the style and methods of work. Ensuring a high degree of vigilance on stand-by duty and in military service, discipline and regulation, order in one's area of work, and the steadfast implementation of the principle of "learning what is necessary in battle" during exercises, flights, and voyages -- those are the factors which now determine above all the leader's professional and party maturity. That time for promises is over, the time for strict accountability has come.

Special demands are made on generals, admirals, and officers working in the organs of management and the central apparatus, who are expected to set an example highly efficient work and a resourceful and responsible attitude. The system of [performance] monitoring and verification needs to be improved. After all, it is no secret that visits by large commissions and various types of groups to troops sometimes developed into mass "forays" which do harm instead of good by introducing elements of frenzy [avralnost] into the lives of units and ships and accustoming people to tutelage and parasitism. There should be greater exactingness toward each central apparatus worker for implementing the party's guidelines, ensuring up-to-date approaches to the solution of the tasks ahead, improving troop management, and for ensuring productivity of troop work. There are major tasks ahead in this regard for political organs and the party organizations of management organs.

The intensification of the party's influence on cadres and the concern of political organs and party organizations to improve their ideological and moral tempering are the most important condition for increasing effectiveness in the work of leaders and for establishing a high level of exactingness, activeness, organization, and performance in all spheres. No one can remain outside the sphere of that influence or aloof from the work of the primary party organization. We must all firmly master the lesson that real concern for cadres has nothing to do with complacency, total licence, favor, and flattery. We cannot and must not be "charitable" at the expense of the state's interests or the interests of combat readiness. Those people who abandon professionalism for general appeals must be immediately set straight and demagoguery, verbosity, carelessness, and indifference must be resolutely eliminated.

"For the rest of my life," Colonel A. Korotokov writes in a letter to the editorial office, "I shall remember the front-liners who prepared us for the military oath by setting an example of how to obey it..." Prepared them for the military oath... So those men were not simply chiefs, they were teachers, too. That is the duty and vocation of every leader today. They must emulate front-liners, dedicate all their energy to the cause of safeguarding the motherland's security, and by their example convince their subordinates of the need for selfless labor and exemplary service.